Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-231
Monday
4 December 1989

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-231 *4 December 1989*

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Council Meets 29-30 Nov in Tunis *[Tunis Radio]* 1
Jordan's Al-Qasim Arrives for Meeting *[Amman Radio]* 1
Council Issues Communique on Palestine *[SPA]* 1
Council Concludes Session *[Tunis Radio]* 1
'Text' of Council Statement *[Sanaa VOP]* 1
Tripartite Committee on Lebanon Convenes in Riyadh 3
Algerian Foreign Minister Arrives *[Riyadh Radio]* 3
Committee 'Will Not Interfere' *[KUNA]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

Details of 'Definitive' PLO Response to Baker Plan *[Amman AL-RA'Y 3 Dec]* 3
Response Presents 'Maximum' Flexibility *[Amman AL-RA'Y 4 Dec]* 4
PLO Rejects U.S. 'Clarifications' *[KUNA]* 4
Bassam Abu-Sharif on Bush, Baker Behavior *[Kuwait AL-WATAN 30 Nov]* 4
PLO's Al-Hasan On 'Exploratory' Visit to U.S. *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I 30 Nov]* 5
'Arafat Warns Palestinians May Lose Self-Restraint *[MENA]* 5
'Arafat Receives EEC, SFRY Messages 6
EEC Chairman *[Sanaa VOP]* 6
SFRY President *[Sanaa VOP]* 6
PFLP-GC's Jibril Denies Bombing Pan Am Flight *[BBC]* 6
Hani Al-Hasan Says Abu-Nidal Ill But Not Yet Dying *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 8

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Review of FLN Emergency Congress Conclusions *[Algiers TV]* 9

Libya

Libyan Envoy Hails Bush-Gorbachev Meeting, Talks *[AFP]* 9

Morocco

Royal Referendum Urges Postponement of Elections 10
Hassan Adviser Issues Appeal *[MAP]* 10
Adviser Explains Parliament Referendum *[MAP]* 10
Voters Pass Referendum *[Rabat Radio]* 11
King Hassan Comments *[MAP]* 11

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Shaykh Sabah Receives Iranian Ambassador, Message *[KUNA]* 12
Sudan's Al-Bashir, Delegation Arrive for Visit *[KUNA]* 12
Iraqi Trade and Industry Minister Arrives 25 Nov *[Kuwait Radio]* 12
Defense Minister Departs for Egypt 25 Nov 12

Oman

Sultan Qabus Delivers National Day Address *[OMAN DAILY OBSERVER 19 Nov]* 12
Deputy Premier Comments on Military Issues *['UMAN 17 Nov]* 14

PDRY

Unnamed Official Cited on Unity Announcement *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 21 Nov]* 15
Central Committee Discusses Federation *[Aden Radio]* 15
USSR Interior Ministry Official Received for Talks *[Aden Radio]* 16
Further on Talks *[Aden Radio]* 16
Deputy Premier Departs for Libya, Comments *[Aden Radio]* 16

Qatar

Foreign Minister Receives GCC Head, Dumas Message *[Abu Dahbi Radio]* 17
Sudan's Al-Bashir Arrives on Visit 28 Nov *[WAKH]* 17
Al-Bashir Leaves Doha 29 Nov *[WAKH]* 17

Yemen Arab Republic

South Yemeni Officials End Unity Talks, Depart *[Sanaa Radio]* 17
Minister Interviewed on Moves Toward Unity *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 18 Nov]* 18
Salih Sends Message to Soviet Leaders 28 Nov *[Sanaa Radio]* 18
Salih Receives Phone Call From Al-Qadhdhafi *[Sanaa Radio]* 18
Labor Minister Leaves for Arab League Meeting *[Sanaa Radio]* 19

ISRAEL

PLO Gives U.S. 'Green Light' on Baker Plan *[THE JERUSALEM POST 3 Dec]* 20
Arens' Adviser Says PLO Reply of No Interest *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
U.S.-Egyptian 'Tense Tug-of-War' Reported *[THE JERUSALEM POST 4 Dec]* 21
Soviet Offer for Meeting With PLO Rejected *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Arens Denies PLO Accepts Baker's Five Points *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Knesset Member Foresees Negotiations With PLO *[KUNA]* 21
'Indirect Dialogue' Reported With PLO Leaders *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 4 Dec]* 22
Final Returns in Histadrut Elections Published *[DAVAR 3 Dec]* 22
Rabin Says 'No Fear' of Involvement in Lebanon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Peres Interviewed on Peace Plan, Labor's Stand *[Cairo AL-AHRAM 29 Nov]* 23
Commentary Contends Shamir 'Losing His Grip' *[HA'ARETZ 28 Nov]* 24

JORDAN

Bin-Shakir Reportedly Resigns; Badran New PM *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 26
Parliament Responds to Husayn's 27 Nov Speech 26
House of Representatives Reply *[Amman Radio]* 26
Senate Response *[Amman Radio]* 30

LEBANON

Al-Hirawi Discusses Postponement of 'Action' *[VOL]* 34
Al-Hirawi Promises Army Will Quell Rebellion *[Beirut Radio]* 34
Al-Hirawi Asks Foreign Powers To Pressure 'Awn *[RFL]* 34
Al-Hirawi Threatens To Take 'Decisive Measures' *[Beirut Radio]* 34
Al-Hirawi Postpones Attack for 48 Hours *[Beirut Radio]* 34
Al-Hirawi on Military Action Against B'abda *[VOL]* 34
Sources Disclose Syrian Plan To Storm B'abda *[INA]* 35
'Awn Forces Reportedly Flee Eastern Area *[VOM]* 35
3 Wounded by Anti-Aircraft Fire Above B'abda *[AFP]* 35
Junblatt Calls for Solution Within '1 Week' *[VOM]* 35
'Awn Prefers 'Honorable Defeat' to Capitulation *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 30 Nov]* 36

Michel 'Awn Calls for Referendum or Elections *[AFP]* 38
'Awn Says Americans 'Not Welcome' in Lebanon *[VOL]* 38
'Awn Denies 'Secret Contacts' With Syria *[RFL]* 38
Ja'ja' Announces 2-Day Hold on Military Action *[VOL]* 39
Hopes for Further Deferment *[VOL]* 39
Ja'ja' Addresses Delegations on War, Options *[VOL]* 39
Minister Rizq Blames 'Awn, Mizhir for Attack *[Voice of National Resistance]* 39
Minister Rizq's Motorcade Comes Under Fire *[VOL]* 40
Attack on Motorcade Denied *[Beirut Radio]* 40

SYRIA

Officials Reportedly Dismissed for 'Corruption' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 41
Commentaries View Developing Situation in Lebanon 41
No 'Compromises' *[Damascus Radio]* 41
Delay in 'Awn Removal 'Dangerous' *[Damascus Radio]* 41
Papers on 'Awn, French Visit *[Damascus Radio]* 42
French Deputies' Beirut Visit 'Cheap' Ploy *[Damascus Radio]* 42
Soviet Air Defense Forces Commander Visits *[Damascus TV]* 43
Al-Asad Meets With Soviet Parliamentary Team *[Damascus Radio]* 43
Egyptian Workers, Others Stage Anti-Iraq March *[Damascus Radio]* 44
NPF, PRC Delegations Hold Talks in Damascus *[Damascus TV]* 44
Damascus TV Reports Mubarak-Harbah Meeting *[Damascus TV]* 45

SOUTH ASIA

India

V.P. Singh Addresses Media Following Election *[Delhi Radio]* 46
V.P. Singh Takes Oath, Meets With Reporters *[Delhi Radio]* 46
More on V.P. Singh's Remarks *[Delhi Radio]* 46
Prime Minister V.P. Singh Addresses Nation *[Delhi TV]* 47
Singh Reviews Ties With Neighbors, Bofors Issue *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Chandra Shekhar Has Reservations About Singh *[Delhi TV]* 49
Li Peng Congratulates V.P. Singh on Premiership *[Delhi Radio]* 49
Deputy Prime Minister Interviewed on Key Issues *[Delhi Radio]* 49
Denies Allowing 'Family Rule' *[Delhi Radio]* 49
BJP's President Advani Outlines Party Policies *[Delhi Radio]* 49
Charges Dropped Against Gandhi Murder Suspect *[AFP]* 50
Governor Orders Release of Akali Dal Leaders *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Sikhs Freed From Jail *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Sikh Leaders Urge Solution to Punjab Problem *[Delhi Radio]* 50
CPI Questions Idea of Reconciliation Government *[Delhi Radio]* 51
Goa Governor Asks for President's Rule in State *[Delhi Radio]* 51
Party Wants President's Rule Imposed in Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 51
New Haryana Chief Minister Takes Oath 2 Dec *[Delhi Radio]* 51
Officials Resign Following Government Change *[Delhi TV]* 51
Rajasthan Chief Minister Submits Resignation *[Delhi Radio]* 51

Iran

Daily Compares Milieus of Malta, Yalta Meetings *[IRNA]* 52
KEYHAN HAVAI on Revolution's Changes *[1 Nov]* 52
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Praises Students *[Tehran Radio]* 56
Iraq, U.S. in 'Plot' To Harm Iran-Austrian Ties *[IRNA]* 56
Karrubi on Lebanon 'Plot' by Iraq, France, Israel *[IRNA]* 57
Pakistan Denies Claims on Saudi Plane Bombing *[Tehran TV]* 57
Tabriz Earth Tremor Measures 4.6 on Richter Scale *[Tehran Radio]* 57
Velayati Discusses POWs With Red Cross Official *[Tehran TV]* 57

Sri Lanka

Complete Indian Pullout Promised by Year's End *[Colombo International]* 58
Communique on Violence, Arrests, Killings *[LANKAPUVATH]* 58
'Hardcore Subversives' Surrender in Matara *[Colombo International]* 58
Ambush Leaves 14 Soldiers, 1 Militant Dead *[LANKAPUVATH]* 59
160 Subversives Surrender; Police Arrest 28 *[LANKAPUVATH]* 59

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Council Meets 29-30 Nov in Tunis

LD2911090589 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Excerpt] In the Palestinian file, it is worth indicating first that it has been decided to hold the emergency meeting of the Arab [League] foreign ministers in Tunis this evening at the request of the State of Palestine with a view to examining the effects resulting from a memorandum presented by Israel to the UN General Assembly in which Israel views the occupied territories as part of the Israeli entity. [passage omitted]

Jordan's Al-Qasim Arrives for Meeting

JN2911182289 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] Tunis—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Tunis today to lead Jordan's delegation to the Arab League Council emergency session to be held on the ministerial level in Tunis this evening at the request of the State of Palestine. Al-Qasim was welcomed on arrival by the Jordanian ambassador in Tunis, the Arab League assistant secretary general for Palestine affairs, and a number of officials at the Arab League General Secretariat.

Council Issues Communique on Palestine

LD3011220889 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Nov 89

[Text] Tunis, 30 November 89, SPA—The Arab League Council has reiterated its support for the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people's intifadah in occupied territories. The council asserted, in a communique published in Tunis today, that in accordance with the Arab Summits' resolutions on the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict, particularly those resolutions adopted at the recent Casablanca summit, the main aims of the current stage are: Israel's withdrawal from all Palestinian and Arab territories occupied since 1967, foremost of which is Arab Jerusalem; the restoration of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to return to self-determination and their own independent state; and the mobilization of Arab resources in all fields to achieve a strategic and comprehensive balance to face up to the Israeli aggressive plans and safeguard Arab rights.

The communique added that to consolidate the Palestinian people's heroic intifadah in all spheres, the council has decided to reconvene the Ministerial Committee, which the council formed last year, in order to continue with moves at the interational level with the aim of mobilizing efforts and resources to bolster the intifadah and protect the Palestinian people from the illegal practices carried out by Israel in occupied Arab territories.

The communique praised the Palestinian people's intifadah in occupied territories which is entering its 3d year much stronger in the escalation of its resistance to Israel occupation and its endeavor to achieve its aims: liberation and independence.

However, the council heard last night at an in camera session the detailed and comprehensive report of the Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in which he dealt with the latest developments in the Palestinian problem and the Israeli stance toward a peace initiative in the Middle East.

In this respect the Arab League's Council has sent a message to the American-Soviet summit due to take place off the Malta coast the day after tomorrow [2 December]

Council Concludes Session

LD3011222989 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Nov 89

[Text] At about 1500 today, the Arab League Council concluded its extraordinary session after discussing the issue of the ministerial conference for Arab-European dialogue called for by French President Francois Mitterand to be held on 22 December 1989 in Paris.

The council welcomed the holding of this ministerial conference and delegated the Arab League secretary general to continue contacts with the European side and to call for a meeting of the Arab side, at the level of representatives and experts, in order to coordinate the Arab position in the light of the Arab resolutions.

In a statement addressed to Bush and Gorbachev issued this evening in Tunis at the end of its extraordinary session, the council called on the Soviet and U.S. Presidents to pursue a solution for the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of resolutions No 242 and 338 and all the resolutions of the international legitimacy in a way which would secure the Israeli withdrawal from all the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem, and would enable the Palestinian people to achieve their national rights, including the right to self-determination, to return, and to establish their indepdent state on their land according to the international legitimacy and its resolutions. In its statement, the council stressed the right of all the countries of the region to live peacefully and securely and the necessity of holding the international conference for peace in the Middle East under the auspices of the UN Security Council and all the sides concerned with the conflict, including the PLO. The Council stressed the necessity of the participation of the PLO in this conference and in the preparations for it.

'Text' of Council Statement

JN0112185689 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1622 GMT 1 Dec 89

["Text" of press statement issued by Arab League Council in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] The Arab League Council held an extraordinary session on 29 and 30 November at the request of the State of Palestine to discuss the Israeli stand, which is obstructing the peace process in the Middle East. The Council listened to a statement by His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, and discussed ways to intensify support for the intifadah of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territory, particularly since this intifadah will soon embark on its third militant year while becoming stronger, escalating its resistance of the Israeli occupation, and endeavoring to achieve its objectives of liberation and independence.

The council took as a guide the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences, particularly the recent Casablanca summit, with regard to the basic objectives of the current stage. These objectives are represented by the end of the Israeli occupation from all the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories since 1967, foremost of which is Arab Jerusalem; the restoration of the Palestinian Arab people's national inalienable rights, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of their independent state; and the mobilization of Arab potential in all fields to achieve a comprehensive strategic parity to confront Israel's aggressive schemes and to safeguard Arab rights.

To reinforce the heroic intifadah of the Palestinian people in all fields, the ministerial committee that was formed by the council will meet to continue the moves in the international arena to mobilize efforts and potential to support the intifadah and protect the Palestinian people from the illegitimate practices carried out by Israel in the occupied territory.

The Arab League Council also addressed a statement to Presidents Gorbachev and Bush at the Malta meeting.

The statement reads: The Arab League Council, which is holding an extraordinary session at Arab League headquarters on 30 November 1989, hopes that the summit meeting between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will become a historic event recorded by mankind and a starting point toward a world in which peace and detente prevail. The meeting, held near the coasts of our Arab countries on the Mediterranean, gains special importance because it coincides with the comprehensive changes that are sweeping our contemporary world, whether those related to the agreements on the nonproliferation of arms and the reduction of armed forces in Europe, those related to democracy and detente, or those related to the peaceful solutions to the regional disputes on the basis of peoples' inalienable rights to freedom, sovereignty, and independence. The Arab League Council hopes that the summit meeting will reinforce these trends and that this will reflect on the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict by the removal of the Israeli occupation from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territory since 1967, because this occupation constitutes an obstacle to establishing security and peace in the world. The Palestinian peace initiative, which was supported by the Arab summit in Casablanca, contains the bases for a fair and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question.

The responsibility of the two superpowers is increasing, because they are playing a distinguished role in seeking a solution to the regional conflicts and are endeavoring to eliminate the hotbeds of tension and war. There is no hotbed of tension and danger more threatening to world peace than the Middle East, because Israel continues to occupy the Palestinian and Arab territories and to deprive the Palestinian people of their national rights, foremost of which is the right to self-determination.

The Arab League Council appeals to the two presidents to concentrate their joint efforts to build world peace in our region by trying to solve the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of Resolutions No 242 and 338, as well as all the resolutions issued by international legitimacy that can guarantee the following:

1. Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, which it occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem.
2. Help for the Palestinian people to regain their national rights, including their right to self-determination, repatriation, and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil in accordance with international legitimacy and its resolutions.
3. The right of all the region's states to live in peace and security.
4. Convening of a UN-sponsored international peace conference on the Middle East to be attended by the five permanent Security Council member states and all the parties invloved in the conflict, including the PLO.

As the convening of the international conference and its success require preparatory steps and the appropriate atmosphere, the Arab League Council stresses the need for the PLO to participate in the conference and in these steps because the PLO is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and is also a party to the comprehensive and just peace process in the Middle East.

The Arab League Council urges the United States and the Soviet Union to give priority to the Palestine question during the Malta talks—a priority necessitated by the gravity of the Middle East situation—to rescue the peace initiative on the Palestine question from the deadlock that has resulted because of the Israeli Government's intransigence, and to exert their efforts to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East, which has been urged by the United Nations and all the parties involved, with the exception of Israel. In this regard, the example afforded by the solution to the Namibian problem under the auspices of the United Nations can be a good one for a comprehensive and just settlement of the occupied Palestinian territories.

Any delay in finding a solution to the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict will lead to further violations of the rights of the Palestinian people, will bring the specter of war to the region, will undermine the security and stability of the region's states, and will directly

threaten world security in general, especially since Israel alone possesses nuclear weapons in the region.

Tripartite Committee on Lebanon Convenes in Riyadh

Algerian Foreign Minister Arrives

LD0312225989 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] His Excellency the Algerian foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali arrived in Riyadh tonight to attend the meeting of the foreign ministers of the member-states of the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee in charge of resolving the Lebanese crisis. This meeting will be held later today [as heard].

The Algerian minister was welcomed by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi foreign minister, the head of the Western Department at the Saudi Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Dr Nizar 'Ubayd al-Madani, and the head of protocol at the Saudi Foreign Ministry, Ambassador 'Abd al-Rahman al-Nuwaysar.

Committee 'Will Not Interfere'

LD0212112289 Kuwait KUNA in English 1019 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 2 (KUNA)—The higher tripartite Arab committee will not interfere directly in Lebanon to help defuse tension between Lebanese president Ilyas al-Hirawi and rebelious Army General Michel 'Awn, daily AL-QABAS Saturday quoted high ranking Lebanese sources as saying.

The sources asserted that the tripartite committee, assigned by an emergency summit in Morocco last May to resolve the Lebanese crisis, "does not plan to convene any emergency meeting over Lebanon," adding that the committee had severed all contacts with General 'Awn.

The Arab sources said that the committee had informed Lebanese and international quarters of its stance concerning 'Awn's problem and the possibility on foreign interference in Lebanon.

The committee specifically made it known to all parties that it does not have the ability to directly affect 'Awn or convince him to change his stance, nor does it intend to interfere directly in the crisis and does not plan convening any meeting with its members, the paper added.

Yet the committee is observing what is happening in that Arab country and will only hold unannounced meetings with Lebanese international and Arab parties to solve the conflict in a way that does not threaten the peace process or infringe the al-Ta'if accord.

The committee considers solving 'Awn's problem the responsibility of the Lebanese legitimacy that is represented by President al-Hirawi and the government of Prime Minister Salim al-Huss.

The source said that the higher Arab committee which groups Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Algeria, will assist any step or decision taken by the Lebanese legislature to solve 'Awn's problem.

Palestinian Affairs

Details of 'Definitive' PLO Response to Baker Plan

JN0312113089 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Dec 89 pp 1, 16

[From Basim Sakkijha in Tunis]

[Excerpts] AL-RA'Y has learned that the PLO gave the U.S. Administration its final and definitive answer to the Baker peace plan for the Middle East at a late hour the night before the last. Palestinian Ambassador in Tunis Hakam Bal'awi handed this answer to the U.S. ambassador in Tunis, who is authorized to negotiate with the PLO.

Palestinian leaders from various factions had been holding continuous meetings over the past 2 weeks to formulate this final answer, which seems to emphasize the international presence at all phases of a settlement.

AL-RA'Y has learned that the answer includes a two-page preamble, reviewing the previous phases of the [U.S.-PLO] dialogue and criticizing the biased, pro-Israel U.S. stand and Israel's position on peace.

In the third page, which is the most important, the PLO presents its final position as follows:

Based on the PLO's position outlined in its first answer to the plan, it can agree to dealing with the Baker plan presented on 6 October, 1989 only in accordance with the PLO Central Council decision to hold a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue as follows:

1. A delegation to be formed by the PLO from inside and outside the occupied territory and to be announced by it.
2. An open agenda for the dialogue.
3. An international presence during the dialogue.
4. The dialogue is a preliminary step to pave the way for the international peace conference.

The answer, which was given to the U.S. ambassador, was also sent to some Arab states, including Egypt, the European troika states, and the permemnent member states of the UN Security Council.

It is to be noted that the answer was given directly to the United States and not through Cairo, which had been the channel of communication between the two sides over the past 5 months. [passage omitted]

AL-RA'Y has also leared that Egypt presented a paper to the U.S. Administration in which it supports the Palestinian reply and considers it positive.

Response Presents 'Maximum' Flexibility

JN0412082889 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Dec 89 p 24

[By Basim Sakkijha]

[Text] Tunis—[Fatah Central Committee member] Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu-Iyad, has doubted the possibility of holding a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue as long as Shamir is in power in Israel.

In a statement to AL-RA'Y, Khalaf said the Palestinian response to the Baker plan represents the maximum of Palestinian flexibility.

AL-RA'Y yesterday published the text of the response which was delivered to the U.S. ambassador in Tunis.

Khalaf added that the PLO will publish in the future all the responses, queries, and letters exchanged with Washington.

He said Washington wanted to erase the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people. He said this cannot be done at all because the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people both inside and outside the occupied territories.

He said the Baker plan has remained vague since the beginning and the U.S. responses to our queries were even more vague. He said this prompted us to remove some of this vagueness in our final and definitive response.

Khalaf praised Jordan's stand constantly supporting the PLO, and referred to Marwan al-Qasim's stand in the emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers.

He said His Majesty King Husayn's disengagement decision was a historic one and placed the PLO before the world. He said the PLO would not have been able to take the peaceful political initiative had it not been for this decision.

PLO Rejects U.S. 'Clarifications'

LD0312114589 Kuwait KUNA in English 1007 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 3 (KUNA)—The PLO has rejected the latest clarifications from Washington about a U.S. proposal for a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, including a hint to an "invisible" PLO role in the much talked about dialogue, a Kuwaiti newspaper disclosed on Sunday.

AL-WATAN daily, quoting well-informed Palestinian sources, said the PLO Saturday delivered its reply to the American clarifications to the Egyptian foreign Ministry which has been acting as a link in preparations for the proposed dialogue.

In the heart of a controversy is a five-point plan by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on the mechanism and purport of the dialogue over which the PLO and Israel were and are diametrically apart.

In its reply, the PLO emphasized its oft-repeated position that the Palestinian side to the dialogue would be selected by the PLO itself and that the talks, tentatively slated for Cairo, would have an open agenda.

The Palestine Liberation Organization also insists that the dialogue must be held under international umbrella and be viewed as a step toward a U.N.-sponsored international conference on the Palestinian quesiton and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The PLO reply criticized the U.S. clarifications for ignoring the organization's role and even denying its existence altogether by talking of influential political powers within the Palestinian body that would select the Palestinian team to the dialogue.

The PLO further charged that the American position clearly bows to Israel's demands in stressing that the dialogue should be limited to the Israeli plan of elections in the occupied areas.

Bassam Abu-Sharif on Bush, Baker Behavior

JN0212123389 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 30 Nov 89 p 17

[Interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, special adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, by Rashid Khashshanah in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Khashshanah] If we look at Palestinian-American relations, we notice that the U.S. Administration promised the PLO leadership three things a year ago in exchange for the initiative that Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] launched from Geneva. It promised to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, the PLO representation, and the international conference. Until today, none of these promises has been fulfilled.

[Abu-Sharif] I have no idea where your information comes from.

[Khashshanah] From responsible Palestinian leaders in the PLO Executive Committee.

[Abu-Sharif] I am afraid that this information is inaccurate, because so far brother Abu-'Ammar has not announced the contents of the written pledge sent then by the U.S. Administration. Patience is the key. We will not be the first to holler; we will make Shamir holler. We are aware of the minefields in light of our experiment, and we will bypass them. Of course, we are not satisfied with the American stand because it is slow; because it gives a cover to criminal Shamir; and because, until now, it has not recognized our right to establish the independent state. However, if we are not satisfied with the American stand this does not mean that we have to turn our backs and leave the stage to Shamir.

When we presented our peace plan through President Abu-'Ammar in front of the representatives of the world, we were honest in saying yes to the solution calling for

two states on the land of Palestine. This is the solution, despite Shamir's stand and Israel's ability to recruit the U.S. Congress and to impose hegemony over the two symbols of the U.S. Administration—Bush and Baker—to prevent them from adopting practical steps such as the ones taken by President Eisenhower in the fifties. At the same time, however, we do not forget that President Bush is the first president in the White House who stood next to Shamir to say to him: You should end your occupation of the West Bank and Gaza; and Baker is the first American secretary who dared to say before the Zionist lobby that Israel should set aside its dreams of establishing the Greater Israel.

I want to note to the Arabs, who must have a good memory, that no American president or secretary dared to address the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee [AIPAC], the Zionist Lobby, without putting on the yarmulke. Many Arabs saw this picture. No American president or secretary dared to address the AIPAC without giving promises of support or without condemning the Palestinians and Arabs. I do not say that Bush and Baker are the redeemers. However, we must see these things in order to support the Palestinian people and their valiant resistance of the occupation. [passage omitted]

PLO's Al-Hasan On 'Exploratory' Visit to U.S.

JN0212112689 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 30 Nov 89 p 21

[By 'Atif 'Awdah]

[Text] Paris—AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I has learned that Khalid al-Hasan (Abu al-Sa'id), Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and Fatah Central Committee member, yesterday left for the United States on a 2-week exploratory visit.

Al-Hasan informed AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I that the purpose of his visit to the United States is to explore ways to develop the U.S.- Palestinian dialogue, and examine the U.S. Administration's positions on the latest developments in the Palestine question, Baker's plan, and the Palestinian response to it.

He also said that during his stop in Paris, he held talks with the French Foreign Ministry's secretary general on the results of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's recent talks with French President Mitterand. He also said that France informed Israel of the necessity of initiating a dialogue with the PLO to advance the peace process in the Middle East.

'Arafat Warns Palestinians May Lose Self-Restraint

NC0112151189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1236 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Paris, 1 Dec (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat praised Egypt's positive efforts to promote the peace process in the Middle East. He said that the Egyptians are not seeking to replace the Palestinian people in any negotiations. On the contrary, they are carrying out their role in complete coordination with the legitimate leadership of the Palestinian people.

In an interview published in the recent edition of the monthly magazine SHU'UN 'ARABIYAH, President 'Arafat affirmed that the Egyptians have never tried to impose any ideas or views on the PLO. Israel, which has constantly and deliberately rejected all the balanced peace initiatives submitted to it, including the Palestinian initiative, also rejected President Husni Mubarak's 10 clarification points.

The Palestinian president noted that the Palestinians have not and will not stop cooperation and coordination with the various Arab states to achieve the Palestinian goals.

'Arafat affirmed that Israel's savage repression of the occupied Palestinian territories may lead us to lose our self-restraint.

Regarding the PLO's relations with Jordan, President 'Arafat said: Our relations with Jordan are absolutely normal. Jordan is playing a distinctive role in view of its geographical proximity to the occupied Palestinian territories, on the one hand, and the presence of a large number of Palestinians on its territory, on the other.

He added: Our relations with Jordan are like our relations with the other Arab states. They are based on the following principles: Mutual respect, the independence of Palestinian decision-making, the non-interference of one party in the affairs of the other, and cooperation for the establishment of permanent peace in the region based on the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and independence.

Regarding relations with Syria, the Palestinian president said that they depend on the settlement of some basic issues, and as soon as these issues are resolved, our relations with Syria will be based on the same principles which govern our relations with the other Arab states.

Regarding the Palestinian intifadah, 'Arafat said that it is beginning its third year now. The Palestinian people have offered many sacrifices as a result of the Israeli intransigence and the Israeli savage practices against an unarmed people who are merely demanding their sacred rights to self-determination and independence.

President 'Arafat emphasized the Palestinian people's determination to continue the intifadah despite Israel's savage and inhumane repression. He also emphasized his confidence in the Palestinian people, a confidence that stems from his unshakable belief in the justness of their cause and their ability to fulfill their hopes. The Palestinian leader warned that the situation in the occupied territories is deteriorating day by day because of the intensification of the repressive Israeli practices. But he affirmed that the Palestinian people are determined to resist to the end.

He added: We have so far been able to maintain self-restraint and have refrained from using fire arms. This proves our great appreciation of the responsibility. But if the savage Israeli practices continue, there is nothing to guarantee the continuation of self-restraint.

The Palestinian leader explained that the active forces in the Palestinian arena, including the Islamic groups, are allies and partners in the basic principles contained in the Palestinian initiative, which stems from the recent Palestine National Council's resolutions.

The Palestinian leader said that the dialogue with the United States is based on the United States' conviction that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. However, he expressed his regret that this dialogue is not proceeding as it should and not moving at the speed demanded by the serious situation in the occupied territories. He noted that the United States is totally biased toward the Israeli position.

'Arafat Receives EEC, SFRY Messages

EEC Chairman

JN0112181689 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine, received an important message from the chairman of the EEC when he received the French, Italian, and Spanish ambassadors—the ambassadors of the troika states— and the EEC representative in Tunis yesterday morning. During the meeting, they reviewed the situation inside the occupied Arab territories in light of Israel's terrorist escalation against our people and their blessed intifadah.

SFRY President

JN0112182089 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine, today received an important message from SFRY President Janez Drnovsek dealing with the latest developments in the Palestine question, as well as current diplomatic efforts. Brother Abu-'Ammar received the message from the SFRY ambassador, whom he received in Tunis yesterday.

In his meeting with the SFRY ambassador, brother Abu-'Ammar reviewed the latest developments in the Palestine question, as well as the current situation in the occupied territories in light of the serious escalation of the aggressive practices of the Zionist army and settlers against our Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

PFLP-GC's Jibril Denies Bombing Pan Am Flight

PM0112163589 London BBC Television Network in English 2230 GMT 30 Nov 89

[From the BBC2 "Newsnight" program: Jeremy Paxman report from Damascus, including "exclusive" interview with PFLP-GC leader Ahmad Jibril]

[Text] [Paxman] One year on the trail from Lockerbie has followed dozens of twists and turns, but repeatedly it comes back to Damascus. In this one-man state President Hafiz al-Asad has offered sanctuary and support to several of the rejectionist fronts—the Palestinian leaders who think that Yasir 'Arafat has sold out, men who believe they will regain their homeland only through the barrel of a gun.

On Monday [27 November] the man the Lockerbie police would most like to interview arrived at the best equipped hospital in Damascus. He happens effectively to own it. Ahmad Jibril, the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], is visiting one of his guerrillas wounded in an Israeli bombing raid in the al-Biqa' valley. The bedside manner of a master terrorist is a thing to behold. This young man had been evacuated from the Al-Biqa' valley by one of Jibril's sons. The war here is handed on from father to son, and Jibril himself claims he hopes to die in the struggle. There is one question both British and American investigators would like to ask him.

[Paxman to Jibril] Mr Jibril, was it your organization which put the bomb on Flight 103 of Pan Am which exploded over Lockerbie?

[Jibril, in English] I am sure that the Israelian [as heard] intelligence, al-Mosad [as heard], put the bomb in Pan American.

[Paxman] In the refugee camps of the Palestinian diaspora, the Israelis and their intelligence agency, Mosad, are automatically assumed to be behind every act of subterfuge and violence. It was here that we met Ahmad Jibril, among the people for whom 40 years of exile have done nothing to diminish a sense of grievance that burns like a fuse.

In this one PFLP-GC school, 480 children aged between 3 and 6 imbibe a message of betrayal by the British, invasion by the Jews, and hostility by the United States. Downstairs their mothers and the widows of Jibril's guerrillas manufacture the clothes they will wear, each emblazoned with the flag of a land they have never seen.

The question in the Lockerbie case is whether the organization has extended its war against Israel to a war against Israel's banker.

[Paxman to Jibril] Do you believe, then, that military action against American targets is legitimate?

[Jibril, here and subsequently in Arabic, with superimposed English translation] We believe that to begin with

we have to confront American economic targets in the Arab homeland to deprive the United States of any economic advantage in the Arab world. We believe that, if we deprive the United States of any economic advantage in this area, we are sure that U.S. fleets will come here to fight us. Then fighting the U.S. will be legitimate.

[Paxman] All-told we spent over 4 hours with Mr Jibril. He proudly told us that he was the only Palestinian leader to have engaged in actual combat and to have killed Israelis. He told us that Britain was the author of the Palestinians' misfortunes and would in the end pay for it. But he repeatedly claimed that the PFLP-GC does not attack civilian targets.

But the evidence painstakingly accumulated since the Lockerbie explosion points to just that—a calculated attack on defenseless men, women, and children. It was December 21, the plane was at 31,000 feet, the cause of 270 deaths—a mid-air explosion. Investigators are certain it was a bomb.

There is no smoking gun, no definitive piece of evidence which proves the authorship of the Lockerbie outrage, but such circumstantial evidence as exists points to a connection—the Scottish investigators have called it a "link"—between the Lockerbie bombing and the PFLP-GC's continuing war against Israel and her backers.

In October last year this man, Hafiz Dalqamuni, was arrested by West German police. He had been under surveillance for weeks, moving around Frankfurt, building up a store of explosives and guns that took the police's breath away. "Enough," said one, "for a small war." Dalqamuni was head of the PFLP-GC's European operation. Jibril claims the weapons were on route to Israel.

[Jibril] Yes, German police found these weapons. They were being sent to Palestine thorough the seaports of Haifa and Ashdod. Germany was one of the places in Europe through which we sent weapons to our people under occupation in Palestine.

[Paxman] It's a long journey, isn't it, for those weapons?

[Jibril] This is one of the routes we use.

[Paxman] But Dalqamuni and his comrades had more than guns. The German police discovered a Toshiba Bombi 453 radio wired as a bomb. The distinctive alarming feature was the presence of a barometric pressure device which would make it explode at altitude. Warnings were issued to international airlines after experts claimed it was designed specifically to destroy aircraft.

When questioned, Jibril admitted the bombs were the work of his organization, that they included barometric pressure devices, but he had another explanation.

[Jibril] This device can be used in a number of different ways. True, it is used to make explosions in high places, but it is possible to put this device in a car at sea level, and if this car is driven to the top of a mountain an explosion will take place. This mechanism is not only related to airplanes. Experts are well aware of the fact that this device could be used for many purposes.

[Paxman] Although the experts say that this is a bomb only for use in aircraft, and the highest mountain in Israel is something under 4,000 feet.

[Jibril] What experts say in this regard is not accurate. We are talking of bombs that explode at the normal height of mountains. There are no bombs available for use at higher altitudes. You have to remember that the air pressure at the height of these mountains is the same as that in a pressurized aircraft cabin. Otherwise how could people travel by air?

[Paxman] The bomb which was found in Mr Dalqamuni's car was inside a Toshiba Bombi 453 radio cassette player, and the bomb which exploded on the Pan Am plane was also a Toshiba radio cassette player.

[Jibril] This is only speculation. There is no evidence to substantiate it.

[Paxman] Forensic evidence is that it was definitely a Toshiba radio cassette player on board the Pan Am plane.

[Jibril] I have no idea what you're talking about. If you have any information, please pass it on to us.

[Paxman commentary] There is more. Jibril's man Dalqamuni had recruited an expert bomb maker, Marwan Khuraysat. The two men were arrested with a bomb in the back of their Ford car. The vital question is how many devices the two men had assembled. Under questioning Khuraysat indicated to the German police that he had made five bombs. Jibril says he doesn't know how many were manufactured

[Paxman to Jibril] This man, Khuraysat, was taken to Germany on Mr Dalqamuni's invitation specifically to manufacture the bombs. He has told the German police that he made five, but there is one missing. There was one that was found in the back of the car, and there were others that were found in the basement of premises which belong to Mr Dalqamuni's brother-in-law. So there is one missing, we think. Do you know anything about what happened to that bomb?

[Jibril] We know from our own information that Khuraysat is an agent of the Jordanian intelligence service, and therefore it is hard to believe what he said. We don't know for sure what happened. We just give instructions that it is necessary to send weapons to our people in the occupied lands. There are Palestinians loyal to us who carry out these instructions, but we do not go into great detail over the implementation of the instructions.

[Paxman] But you admit that your organization was making bombs in Germany. You say you don't know exactly how many there were. It is possible, isn't it, that

one of those bombs being made by your men was subsequently put on the plane?

[Jibril] We don't believe that Dalqamuni would get involved in anything contrary to our instructions. We gave him no instructions to do any harm to civilians. His task was to work against the Israelis.

[Paxman] But if we don't know what happened to one of the bombs—at least one of the bombs—it is possible that that bomb was the device which blew up the Pan Am plane, isn't it?

[Jibril] As I have said, we have not heard this information before. Khuraysat is an untrustworthy source because he is an agent for Jordan. In making these accusations it seems you are assuming a person is guilty until proven innocent. As we have said, we are prepared to assist all investigating bodies, providing that we should not be viewed as already convicted. If we feel that you consider us the perpetrators, we will stop cooperating.

[Paxman] Mr Jibril's offer to make his men available for questioning is less than it at first appears. It is hedged around with conditions, the strongest of which is that they are not treated as possible suspects and don't face possible arrests. It is hard to imagine the British or American authorities agreeing to such terms. We must therefore make of Mr Jibril's denials what we can.

Hani Al-Hasan Says Abu-Nidal Ill But Not Yet Dying

JN0312124689 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Hani al-Hasan, one of President Yasir 'Arafat's advisers, has stated that Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], who is in charge of the Revolutionary Council of Fatah movement, is ill in Libya and suffers from heart and artery problems. He also said that a medical team went there recently to treat him.

Hani al-Hasan added that Abu-Nidal is not yet dying, and denied any knowledge of what the press published about Abu-Nidal as having cancer. However, he added that his organization is now disintegrating as a result of the difference among its officials, who have begun to desert Abu-Nidal.

Algeria

Review of FLN Emergency Congress Conclusions

LD0212133489 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Excerpts] [Announcer] After 3 days of heated debates, the FLN [National Liberation Front] has drawn its future path and defined its political direction to confront the challenges of the day and to consolidate reforms under pluralism. The proceedings of the concluding session and the resolutions and recommendations reached by the congress are outlined by Madani Amer:

[Amer] [passage omitted] The FLN has come up with a new central committee structure, which has among its ranks strugglers of various age groups and from different historical phases. On the basis of democratic choice, the new structure has 267 members, most of whom have emerged from the grassroots and some who belong to various groups of the FLN.

The congress, which lasted 3 days and discussed the FLN's problems and philosophy, ended late last night. [passage omitted]

Regarding the congress's documents and the new dimension which they provide for the FLN's action, here is a brief account of the documents endorsed.

The procedural and constitutional committee's report said the FLN is a political party that draws its members from all social sectors which adhere to patriotic principles, and it is eager to protect social justice through the socialist option. The FLN supports the exercise of democracy among its ranks and endeavors to spread it in society. The FLN also adheres to the following patriotic principles; the unity of the people and the homeland; Islam as the religion of the state; Arabic as the official language; the republican system; and basic individual liberties. The report added the FLN is eager to pursue the policy of dialogue in the interest of the homeland, and rejects all practices which harm national unity, national independence, and the principles for which the people have struggled. As for organization at the level of the party pyramid, it comprises a central committee which selects a political bureau.

The economic and social policy committee stressed the need for a comprehensive and objective assessment of development stages, to follow the socialist path in economic managements, and to carry out a comprehensive reform of the national economy. It also stressed exploiting human resources and the economic system in order to fulfill the needs of national consumption and exports, achieving social justice and maintaining the citizen's purchasing power, in addition to developing the economy and accumulation, reassessing development to fulfill social needs, improving the effectiveness of production and investment in all fields of activity, and stressing the need to mobilize national saving and to steer toward productive investments, and combatting all futile expenditure. [passage omitted]

The general policy endorsed by the congress focuses on six points: First, on the exercise of power by the FLN, the charter says the front will endeavor to consolidate democracy within its ranks and to work with all organizations which respect the constitution and the nation's principles. Second, on relations between the FLN and popular organizations, the charter says the FLN will endeavor to cement democracy in these organizations and make them serve the interests of the masses. Third, on the FLN's relations with political organizations, the charter emphasizes these will be based on mutual respect and honorable implementation of the constitution, and the FLN hopes they will be a framework for dialogue and forgiveness. Fourth, regarding reforms in the regional and central administrative system, the charter calls for the administrative apparatus to adapt to new social and economic developments. Fifth, regarding the front's policy on national defense, the FLN salutes the efforts of the National People's Army and its contribution to national construction, and urges the re-establishment of revolutionary youth schools. Sixth, in the field of foreign policy, the FLN is loyal to the principles of the Algerian revolution and pledges to support all the peoples struggling for their freedom and independence. [passage omitted]

Libya

Libyan Envoy Hails Bush-Gorbachev Meeting, Talks

AU0112132089 Paris AFP in English 1228 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Valletta, Dec 1 (AFP)—In a reversal of criticisms from Tripoli, Libya's ambassador in Malta has welcomed the Bush-Gorbachev summit being held off the island this weekend, the local press reported Friday. Envoy Ahmad al-Shahati told a press conference he was optimistic about positive developments in Libyan-American relations.

"Malta is the ideal place for a future meeting between the leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and President Bush," he said. The Libyan people considered Mr. Bush "different" from his predecessor Ronald Reagan, the ambassador said. "He is a man more open to the Arabs because he is more intelligent and cultivated and possesses great international experience," Mr. al-Shahati said.

Diplomatic sources said secret U.S.-Libyan contacts had been set up here through mediation by the Maltese government, whose leader Eddie Fenech Adami has Washington's trust while maintaining good links with Tripoli. Mr. Fenech Adami went to Tripoli last Sunday for talks with Colonel Qadhdhafi and probably asked him to tone down his hostility to the summit, the sources said.

With Mr. al-Shahati was Palestine Liberation Organisation representative Mourad Issa Bahloul [spelling as received], who has been accepted by Malta as ambassador for the Palestinian state declared by the PLO. He hoped the summit would improve the situation in the Middle East. The two envoys issued a joint declaration stating that Mediterranean security demanded the withdrawal of military bases and fleets and all nuclear weaponry—as Mr. Gorbachev has proposed during his Rome visit preceding the summit.

Morocco

Royal Referendum Urges Postponement of Elections

Hassan Adviser Issues Appeal

LD0112134189 Rabat MAP in English 1220 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Rabat, Dec.1 (MAP)—To say "yes" to the royal initiative to postpone for a two-year period general elections in Morocco means first total adhesion to the deep motivations that are at the origin of the royal decision, said adviser to the King Hassan II, Ahmed Reda Guedira.

In a story published Thursday by "LE MATIN DU SAHARA ET DU MAGREB" entitled "the referendum of virtue", Guedira pointed out that Morocco which is keen on safeguarding its public image does not want to exclude the Saharan populations from the rest of the national population, "and it is for this reason that King Hassan II decided to protract by two years the Parliament term" Guedira said adding that the sovereign had explained at length the reasons that dictated his decision and that no one can contest the validity of this decision.

Guedira stated further that some wanted to qualify the royal initiative as "ambiguous" and exclusively sticked to the protraction of the parliamentary term while in fact, the most important thing lies elsewhere and the prolongation of the current Parliament is nothing more than the unavoidable consequence of this very important thing.

This important thing lies in the deep motives and reasons behind the royal decision, the sovereign's adviser said. For Guedira, it is unlikely the UNO will be able to organize the self-determination referendum in the Sahara by September 1990.

"On the one hand, it is clearly untimely, not to say dangerous, to organize general elections before the organization of the referendum in the Sahara and on the other, and this is perhaps the most important, it is unthinkable to polarize spirits and to mobilize as of today the Moroccan people awaiting the elections of 1990 while neglecting what is taking place in our southern provinces", Guedira pointed out.

The sovereign's adviser then wondered whether we had another choice than to devote all energies to the defense of our Sahara saying that the determination to safeguard at any cost our territorial integrity implies and exacts its own conditions: milieux, environment, context, and state of mind.

It is to liberate our minds from all marginal concerns, compared to the most important, our Sahara, that the sovereign made this decision, Guedira stated adding that to say "yes" when going to the polls this Friday marks total adherance to the deep motivations behind the royal decision. The sovereign has a contract with his people, he is implied in everything related to their destiny. And this is one of the sovereign's main virtues.

To say "yes" in the Friday referendum comes to say "yes" to this virtue. The protraction of the current legislature is only the consequence and necessary judicial support of this virtue, Guedira said.

Adviser Explains Parliament Referendum

LD0112143989 Rabat MAP in English 1230 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Rabat, Dec. 1 (MAP)—Adviser to King Hassan II, Ahmed Reda Guedira, made a statement to the Moroccan TV Thursday evening wherein he explained the reasons that prompted King Hassan II to propose the postponement of general elections in Morocco, initially slated for next summer, for a two-year period.

Guedira said the speech made by King Hassan II on November 22 and wherein he announced the organization of a referendum on the postponement of legislative and local elections in the Kingdom was the result of a thorough thinking in relation with the Sahara issue.

Guedira also dealt with the impact of the referendum on the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) pointing out that the Union has been for a long time the dream of the peoples of the region who were struggling in Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania for independence and for the materialization of this union. He added that without the intelligence and shrewdness of King Hassan II and his ability to overcome conjunctural obstacles, the union could not have been established.

After he underlined the steps covered in the edification of the Arab Maghreb since the Algeria Maghreban summit, the sovereign's adviser recalled the aggressions launched during the past two months against the Royal Armed Forces specifying that these provocations were merely meant to destroy what has been constructed by Maghreban leaders, the Arab Maghreb Union.

With the postponement of general elections in the country, Morocco once again gives proof of its good will, of its firm attachment to the unity of the Maghreb and strong determination to work together with bretherns in Tunisia, Libya, Algeria and Mauritania. Such were the considerations taken into account by the sovereign when he announced the organization of this Friday referendum, Guedira said.

On the incidence of the Friday referendum on the international level, Guedira said through this referendum, Morocco will give to the UNO another proof of its determination to collaborate with the world body, sincerly and in the best possible way, to facilitate the UN secretary general's good offices missions and the organization of a self-determination referendum in the Sahara.

Voters Pass Referendum

LD0212135189 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Excerpt] The results of the referendum held throughout the country yesterday confirmed the citizens' unanimous consensus about His Majesty King Hassan II's decision to postpone legislative elections for 2 years so the United Nations can to organize a referendum in our Saharan provinces. [passage omitted]

King Hassan Comments

LD0212150889 Rabat MAP in English 1237 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Rabat, Dec. 2 (MAP)—King Hassan II pointed out that the frank and massive "yes" of the Moroccan people (to the postponement of general elections in the Kingdom) is "the yes of wisdom".

In a statement he made to the international media while leaving the polling station where he had fulfilled his national duty Friday, the sovereign said this referendum means that Morocco is attached to its Sahara and that it also is keen on seeing Moroccan legitimacy internationally recognized as it is eager to avoid embarassing its friends or international bodies. And it is for this reason, King Hassan II said, that it does not want to be in contradiction with itself with the organization of legislative and communal elections that will appear as inconsistent with the fate of the Moroccan Sahara and the referendum to be organized by the United Nations.

Asked by a newsman on what would happen if the UN fails to organize the referendum within the two coming years, the sovereign said, "I would be very unhappy for the world for now, with the increasing detente that is being witnessed more clearly everywhere, I think that the United Nations would seize the opportunity of this detente to come back to the orthodoxy of international ethics...I think that the UNO will be more credible than ever."

"Well now, if despite all this the UNO does not organize the referendum in the Sahara, which is one of its duties, I would be sad for the whole world", the sovereign said.

As to the internal problems that accompanied the referendum the sovereign said, "some political parties deemed it necessary to adopt a stand. I consider that they sent me a message... this message will get its answer...."

"A message reached me, we will settle our internal affairs among us...but as to the Sahara issue, thanks God, unanimity is total," King Hassan II said adding that it is a question of reviewing and perfecting an instrument, that of our democratic institutions. "Seeking perfection myself, I see no reason why not to settle our home affairs the soonest possible," the sovereign said.

Kuwait

Shaykh Sabah Receives Iranian Ambassador, Message

LD2911143189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1244 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Kuwait, Nov 29 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmd al-Jabr Wednesday received a verbal message from Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The message was conveyed by Iranian ambassador to Kuwait Hoseyn Sadeqi at a meeting with Shaykh Sabah today.

Shaykh Sabah told reporters that the message explains the results of the visit to Tehran by the U.N. secretary general's envoy Jan Eliasson and his talks with the Iranian officials on activating peace negotiations between Iran and Iraq and implementing the security council resolution 598. [passage omitted]

Sudan's Al-Bashir, Delegation Arrive for Visit

LD2711191389 Kuwait KUNA in English 1005 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 27 (KUNA)—Chairman of Sudan's Revolution Command Council Gen. Umar al-Bashir and the accompanying delegation arrived here today for a two-day official visit to the country.

His Highness the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, head of the national guard, ministers, governors, dean of the diplomatic corps, senior government officials and Sudanese Embassy staff greeted the guest upon arrival at the airport.

Al-Bashir is accompanied by chairman of the former Interim Military Council Gen. Abdul Rahman Swar al-Dhab [name as received], Industry Minister Muhammad 'Umar 'Abdallah, Energy Minister 'Abd-al Mun'im Khawjali, the council's secretary Col. Abdula' Al Mahmoud [name as received] and State Minister for Defence Major General Uthman Ahmad al-Hassan.

His highness the Amir will this evening host a dinner banquet in honour of Gen. al-bashsir and the accompanying delegation.

Iraqi Trade and Industry Minister Arrives 25 Nov

JN2511112089 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Text] Muhammad Mahdi Salih, Iraqi minister of trade and industry, arrived in the country this morning on an official visit lasting several days. He was received upon arrival by the minister of commerce and industry, Faysal 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Khalid. The Iraqi trade and industry minister will attend the inaugural ceremony of the Iraqi products fair at the Mushrif complex later today.

Defense Minister Departs for Egypt 25 Nov

LD2511111189 Kuwait KUNA in English 0835 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 25 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Minister of Defense Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah left here Saturday heading for Egypt on an official visit in response to an invitation extended by Egyptian Minister of Defense and Military Production Field Marshal Yusuf Sabri Abu Taleb.

Upon his departure, Shaykh Nawwaf said that his visit to Cairo would be an opportunity to strengthen and boost bilateral brotherly relations between the two Arab countries.

The visit will also enable both sides to hold talks and exchange view points on military cooperation, Shaykh Nawwaf added.

Shaykh Nawwaf said that he carries a verbal message from His Highness the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

He pointed out that the message conveys their greetings.

Shaykh Nawwaf was seen off at the airport by chief of staff Major General Mazyad Abdul Rahman al Sanee, Defense Under Secretary Faysal Al-Dawoud, deputy chief of staff Major General Jabir Khalid al-Sabah the Egyptian ambassador to Kuwait in addition to other senior officials.

Oman

Sultan Qabus Delivers National Day Address

PM2911154389 Muscat OMAN DAILY OBSERVER in English 19 Nov 89 p 2

["Text" of speech by Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id of Oman on national day on 18 November 1989; place not specified]

[Text] In the name of God the Compassionate, the Merciful. Thanks to the Lord of the World and God's prayers and Peace be on his honest Prophet whom he has sent with Guidance and Light and the bright illumination of Truth.

My dear countrymen,
It gives me pleasure to congratulate you on our glorious National Day, and on these happy occasions which we celebrate and always receive with thanks to God for his blessings in which we rejoice. We also thank Him for the bounty of our progress on the road to prosperity and welfare. May God continue his blessings to our people and our beloved Oman in this new year.

Our dear people,
Our National Day celebrations this year are devoted to the commemoration of the great efforts we have made in the fields of agriculture, fisheries and related industries.

In expressing our happiness in what has been achieved in the past two years, and in the fruitful results we have obtained through God's guidance, we pledge our determination to continue these efforts as a cornerstone of our national development programme.

We believe that the future of our coming generations resides in their patriotic commitment to our Fatherland, our pride in the sacred work traditions established by our forefathers, and in energetically utilising our country's national resources.

We call upon our people to address themselves to the Omani crafts that lie ready to their hand in all fields—an inheritance that we must not lose.

In pursuance of this, we must ensure that we have a comprehensive social and economic framework within which we can demonstrate the high importance of these crafts. We must develop our economy, diversify the exploitation of our resources, and thus continue to improve the standard of living of our people. At the same time, it is the duty of us all continuously to bear in mind that this progress must be built on the foundations of our great inherited traditions and customs in accordance with the circumstances of the times in which we live. Thus will fruit be borne for this generation and those generations still to come.

My countrymen,
We are living in a time which demands from each one of us the serious performance of our duties in all fields of work, with no exception.

We express our appreciation of the efforts by our government departments and areas of the private sector which have notably enhanded the increasing percentage of Omanisation.

Today, we wish to stress the importance of continuing such efforts to gradually replace expatriates with Omanis of the same professional standards, as a national necessity. We must tolerate no obstacles to achieving these objectives.

The percentage of expatriates in our country is still high, the majority of whom are in the private sector in the building and construction industries and other companies. Much of this work could be done by Omanis.

Although it is the duty of employers in the private sector to make serious efforts to provide opportunities for our people who are willing to work, to help them gain practical and technical experience, we especially stress the great importance of the people themselves accepting such work, at present performed by expatriates. This must include simple manual employment. Our people must never be ashamed to carry out such honourable and usefel duties in the service of their country. It is shameful to permit false pride to provide and excuse that such work is beneath them. It only denies them their role and opportunity, and perpetuates the need for foreign labour. This we cannot accept, as the guardian of our people entrusted with their interests.

My dear countrymen,
We call on every Omani to apply themselves to work seriously, and participate responsibily and sincerely in the building of their country. We desire to stress the importance of maintaining the spirit of brotherhood and love that exists in our society, which reflects the strong ties which bind our people throughout our country. We must stand united against all trends which might damage the fabric of our society upon which the strength and prosperity of our land rests.

It is important that our people be kept aware of all aspects of the progress of our country, so that every section of the community is conscious of its rights and duties. This awareness must take the form of public responsiblity. All officials, tribal Sheikhs, religous teachers, and all those concerned with educational, cultural and social activities, must play their part in cooperation with the information services to this end. This will be of the greatest importance in serving to consolidate the awarness of the citizen of his role and responsibility. It will deepen the cooperation and interaction between the people and the government. It will also improve the standards of performance in all fields of production and services. Moreover, it will be conducive to the maintenance of all our achievements.

My dear people,
We express our appreciation of the sincere efforts being made by those in all civil sectors, both government and private. We particularly commend their tireless work and postitive response to our country's needs.

It gives us pleasure to salute our gallant Armed Forces. We are deeply conscious of their high standards and sincere devotion to their sacred national duty.

We also salute all those entrusted with the security of our society in the service of our land and people, we praise their efficiency and devotion.

My countrymen,
We salute the positive role being played by the Arab Gulf States Cooperation Council. We continue, together with our brother leaders of the council, to improve the cooperation between our states as a practical framework for the unification of our efforts for the welfare of the people of our region. It gives us pleasure to warmly welcome the 10th Gulf Summit in Muscat on the 18th of next month, God willing, and to express our pride in meeting our brothers, the leaders of the Council states, in Oman. We pledge ourselves to do all we can to make the summit a success and to contribute to our joint endeavours for the Council's continued success in the attainment of its noble goals.

We note the achievements gained on both Gulf and Arab levels, and we shall work unremittingly for the consolidation of peace and stability in the region. We pledge our

full support to the efforts of the United Nations, represented by its Secretary-General, to revive the negotiations between Iraq and Iran, to reach a peaceful permanent settlement between these two neighbouring Muslim countries.

We must also note the positive efforts made by the Tri-Arab High Committee [as published], which includes our brother leaders of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Algeria, and their notable progress in addressing the Lebanese crisis. We call on our brothers in Lebanon to cooperate with the elected president, to restore peace and harmony in all Lebanon, so a new era of unity and stability may dawn.

We are following closely recent developments in the Palestinian situation and we confirm our full support for the Palestinians' peace initiative and to all efforts which could make a serious contribution towards a permanent and just settlement of this problem; and to put an end to the sufferings and unjust occupation of the Palestinian people.

We confirm our full support for the restoration of their national rights of self-determination and the establishment of their independent state.

We salute you, our dear countrymen. We pray to God to guide us all to prosperity and a high destiny for our beloved Oman. We beg Almighty God to grant a new era to all humanity in which cooperation, peace and stability will reign.
Peace be upon you all.

Deputy Premier Comments on Military Issues

PM2711112789 Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic
17 Nov 89 pp 1, 15

[Report on interview with His Highness Fahr Bin-Taymur, Omani deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs, by Muhammad al-Hawwari; place, date unspecified]

[Text] His Highness Fahr Bin-Taymur, deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs, has emphasized the Sultan Armed Forces have been equipped with the latest weapons to meet the country's requirements, protect its holy places, and keep pace with the advance in international military technology, in implementation of the lofty instructions of his majesty the sultan, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces.

In an exclusive interview with 'UMAN, his highness said since his majesty the sultan, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, assumed power, he has devoted special attention to his Armed Forces in terms of preparedness and armaments until they have become equal to any modern, well prepared army in terms of training, equipment, and combat capability.

His highness added the sultan's Armed Forces possess broad combat experience, and through their continuous maneuvers we are seeking to enhance this experience through practical exercises, benefiting from the modern equipment available. There is no other way of achieving a high level of preparedness other than continuing such maneuvers.

His Highness Fahr Bin-Taymur affirmed the sultanate continues to participate in the Peninsula Shield exercises with the brothers in the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states. It also takes part in the maneuvers conducted by some friendly states with which we have military ties. We also send delegations to fraternal and friendly states to attend maneuvers conducted on those states' territories.

On military cooperation and coordination among the GCC states, his highness said: As a result of the lofty instructions of their majesties and their highnesses, the leaders of the GCC states, we have made great strides in the fields of military cooperation and coordination among the GCC states, and we, together with our brothers, seek to achieve complete integration among the armies of the GCC states.

With regard to the manufacturing of arms at the GCC states' level, his highness said self-sufficiency in arms is the objective the GCC states are seeking in the long term. The GCC states will, God willing, work to benefit from the experiences of the fraternal states which have surpassed them in that field.

On the sultan's Armed Forces' role in serving society, His Highness Fahr Bin-Taymur said the Armed Forces' role at sea or in the air is no different from their role on land. The Armed Forces' duty is to protect Omani territory, airspace, and waters from any any aggressor. The Armed Forces watch over every inch of this to deter anyone thinking of tampering with their sovereignty. That includes deterring ships which try to dump their toxic waste in our waters.

His highness pointed out the Armed Forces' slogan always has been: "One hand builds and the other defends." And the various corps of the Armed Forces have spared no efforts for the sake of bolstering the national development plan throughout the sultanate in order to provide basic services to Omani citizens everywhere.

On the sultanate's recent contacts with a number of world states with a view to acquiring advanced technology in the military field, his highness said: Thank God and thanks to the policy of his majesty the supreme commander, the sultanate maintains close relations with all states. We never have faced any problem in acquiring the arms we need. The sources of our armament are varied, and we intend to maintain that line.

PDRY

Unnamed Official Cited on Unity Announcement

PM2711142189 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Nov 89 p 1

[Zaki Shahab report: "Senior Yemeni Official Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Unity Step To Be Announced Following Aden Summit"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A senior Yemeni official has announced that on the occasion of the celebrations marking the independence anniversary, the capital of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] will witness the announcement of a unity step with the northern part through a full merger between the two parts. The Yemeni official told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the unity to be announced after the summit between the leaders of the two parts, Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, will result in the unification of joint representation of the two countries in international forums, in the pursuit of a joint policy, in the formation of a central government, in the unification of the armed forces under a single Defense Ministry, and in the announcement of two local governments, one in Sanaa and the other in Aden.

The Yemeni official revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the two leaders' intention of merging the People's Assembly and the Shura Council into a unified parliament.

As for political organizations, the future of the unified Yemeni Socialist Party in Aden and the People's Congress will be left to the unified political organization committee, which will study the experiment and find a formula for bringing about a unified political organization.

The Yemeni official expected a unified presidential council between the two countries to be announced and agree on a formula for leadership, whether by rotation or agreement.

Other sources said that a PDRY delegation headed by Fadl Muhsin, secretary of the unified Socialist Party Central Committee, will arrive in the capital, Sanaa, tomorrow to prepare for the upcoming Yemeni summit between President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallal Salih and Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Council Presidium, scheduled to be held in Aden 30 November. [passage omitted]

Central Committee Discusses Federation

EA2511122389 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Nov 89

["Text" of Press Communique issued by the 17th extraordinary session of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee]

[Excerpt] The 17th extraordinary session of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee was convened today under the chairmanship o
al-Bid, the secretary general of the Brother 'Ali Salim
mittee. It was attended by the broarty's Central Com-
Presidium of the Supreme People'sher members of the
of Ministers; party committees in tCouncil; the Council
committees of the Armed Forces governorates; party
cadres of the Central Committee Sand by the leading
cretariat.

The Central Committee devoted
cussing the Yemeni national issuethe session to dis-
affecting action to unify the two platest developments
and the current situation in the Yets of the homeland,
characterized by the growing tidneni arena, which is
aspiration of the masses, and their of unification, the
cratic forces to achieve Yemeni unipatriotic and demo-
connotations. with its democratic

The Central Committee stressed tl
in the cause of Yemeni unity hadt this great interest
vacuum. Instead, it was an extemot arisen out of a
struggle of the masses and the patsion of the age-old
ment in conformity with the orienotic unionist move-
leadership as reflected by the basiations of the party's
the Central Committee during itrends portrayed by
interest in unity comes in harmony 15th session. This
of the two leaderships to create awith the joint efforts
understanding and mutual trust tolid groundwork of
unification within a framework of rplace the action of
to facilitate the exploration of talistic thinking so as
unifying action. e actual scope for

The Central Committee has noted
realism has increasingly affected rhat a new political
two parts. This realism should be rations between the
brotherly dialogue and joint action anifested in further
aim of ridding unifying action of ts agreed on with the
methods. It should also be formal ae detritus of earlier
issues and courses which could be ed seriously examine
two parts of the homeland toward tbarked upon by the
Yemeni unity. e realization of full

The Central Committee studied the
forward by the leaderships of thespective plans put
unification formula to govern prog two parts on the
tional stage. The Central Committss from the transi-
that the correct method for joint act adopted the view
dialogue toward merging the twon was constructive
arriving at a single formula that reflc formulae, thereby
inators that are based on moving ts common denom-
fying actions that will lead to full rwards further uni-
rger.

The Central Committee expressed it
efforts by the Political Bureau to gaappreciation of the
the latest information about joint wer all the facts and
indicated that the realistic and feasrk toward unity. It
at the present time is to find a transible course of action
Such a formula would emphasize thonal unity formula.
two political leaderships to take gimportance for the
strides in this direction, on the basidual and realistic
ities. It should draw on common gof today's possibil-
political, economic, social, and cultund existing in all
ral fields.

The Central Committee hailed the responsible attitude and keenness arising out of a realization of the importance of reinforcing the atmosphere of trust and continuing constructive dialogue with the brother leaders of the northern part of the homeland on this fundamental issue.

The Central Committee is of the opinion that the realistic way to create the means and appropriate guarantees for building a united state is through the democratization of political and social life. This will guarantee the participation of the broadest masses of the people and their representatives—namely political parties, mass and creative organizations and patriotic personalities who believe in the aims of the glorious Yemeni revolution.

The Central Committee pointed out that democracy constitutes a guarantee for the progress of unificatory action toward establishing a fully-merged and united state based on peace and democracy to safeguard the political and democratic freedoms and the basic civil and personal rights of all citizens and to ensure that laws contradicting democratic human rights are amended.

The Central Committee adopted the view that inasmuch as democracy had become a modern phenomenon and a positive requirement for our Yemeni people, it should be given substance in the form of practical action to remove all restrictions on the right of citizens to practice general freedoms—freedom for the press and political trade union organizations; freedom to participate in policy-making and to criticize; and freedom to openly expose any matter affecting the destiny of the homeland and its people.

The Central Committee stressed the need to put the national comprehensive political and economic reform program into a unificatory context to enhance the importance of the reform to overcoming the leftist and rightist extremism, which had surrounded the march of the glorious 26 September and 14 October revoiutions by rehabilitating the political and patriotic classes and forces faithful to the aims of the Yemeni revolution which had been politically and economically excluded, and by reviving their role wit the framework of a democratic formula ensuring extensive national and popular participation in the management of the state and society.

The Central Committee adopted the view that a federal transitional period to precede total unity is essential for perfecting conditions conducive to the establishment of a material base for unity. Once unity becomes strong and firm there will be no disengagement. The exercise of democratic and political freedoms will be guaranteed, human rights safeguarded, and a modern state established with institutions based on law and order, which will uphold the people's interests in their democratic patriotic classes and groupings and erase all remnants of the eras of the imamate and colonialism. The Central Committee stressed that the future Yemeni state must constitute an instrument for the building of a civilized society in the process of building a single democratic Arab state. [passage omitted]

USSR Interior Ministry Official Received for Talks

EA2011135089 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] Brother Colonel Mutahhaar Mus'id, member of the Central Committee and deputy minister of the interior, received at his office this morning Comrade Anatoliy Vasilyevich Anatoliy, head of the Political Department of the Soviet Interior Ministry.

At the beginning of the meeting Brother Mutahhar welcomed the Soviet delegation, wishing it a good stay in Democratic Yemen and the achievement of fruitful success during its visit. There was discussion of all aspects of existing cooperation between the Interior Ministries of the two friendly countries, and methods of strengthening and developing them.

The brother deputy minister stressed the importance and need for exchanging practical experience in the different fields pertaining to the work of the police in the two friendly countries.

The meeting was attended by Brother Major Abu Salam Muhammad Naji, head of the Political Department of the Interior Ministry, and several other officials from the Ministry.

Further on Talks

EA2311110889 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Official talks in the Ministry of Interior between a delegation of our country's Ministry of Interior headed by Brother Maj 'Abd al-Salam Muhammad Naji, director of political department, and a delegation of the Soviet Ministry of Interior headed by Lieutenant General Anatoliy Anikiyev Vasilyevich, director of the political department, ended at noon today. A series of matters were discussed concerning practical tasks in the party and political fields and other professional tasks. Information and experiences were also exchanged the development and reinforcement of bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

Deputy Premier Departs for Libya, Comments

EA2011104989 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Brother Salih Abu Bakr bin Husaynun, member of the Central Committee, deputy premier, and minister of energy and mines, left for Tripoli this afternoon at the head of a government delegation to attend the meeting of the joint [south] Yemeni-Libyan technical and economic committee.

Before his departure, Brother Husaynun told ADEN NEWS AGENCY that the visit would deepen and entrench the fraternal relations of cooperation between

the two brotherly countries, particularly as these relations were established right at the beginning of the 1 September Revolution, and were crowned with the signing of many agreements aimed at developing economic, cultural, and scientific cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

He pointed out that during the meeting of the joint committee there would be a discussion on the parameters of future joint cooperation, and the methods which would ensure the strengthening and development of relations between the two countries, in various fields.

At the end of his statement, brother Husaynun said he had a letter from Brother Haydar Abu Bakr 'al-Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the People's Supreme Council, to his brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, concerning relations between the two fraternal countries, and methods of strengthening and developing them in various fields. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Foreign Minister Receives GCC Head, Dumas Message

JN2611114189 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Text] Doha—Qatari Foreign Minister 'Abdallah Ibn-Khalifah al-'Atiyyah this morning met with 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], who is visiting the State of Qatar.

During the meeting, they discussed the arrangements for the 10th GCC summit slated for 18-21 December in Muscat. They also reviewed a host of topics listed on the summit agenda.

Bisharah arrived in Doha earlier today on a visit to Qatar as part of a tour that will take him to a number of the region's states.

The Qatari foreign minister also received a written message from French Foreign Affairs Minister Roland Dumas on the Arab-European dialogue conference of foreign ministers to be held soon. The message was conveyed by the French ambassador in Doha during his meeting with the Qatari minister this morning.

Sudan's Al-Bashir Arrives on Visit 28 Nov

JN2811130089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1245 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Doha, 28 Nov (WAKH)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, today arrived in Doha on an official 2-day visit to Qatar.

The Qatari amir, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani, was at head of those receiving him at the airport. He was also received by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister; ministers; and senior Qatari officials.

Al-Bashir Leaves Doha 29 Nov

JN2911125689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Doha, 29 Nov (WAKH)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, left Doha this morning after an official 2-day visit to Qatar. During the visit, he held a round of talks with His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

South Yemeni Officials End Unity Talks, Depart

JN2711151589 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] Brothers Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, Political Bureau member and Central Committe secretary; Rashid Muhammad Thabit, Central Committee member and minister of state for union affairs; and 'Abd-al-Wasi' Sallam, minister of justice and religious trusts in the southern part of the homeland, left Sanaa this afternoon following a 4-day visit to Sanaa, during which they held talks with the brother officials in the northern part on expediting Yemeni unity. They were seen off by brothers Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, minister of development, director of the Central Planning Authority, and member of the Standing Committee; Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for unity affairs and member of the Standing Committee; Isma'il al-Wazir, minister of state for legal and Consultative Council affairs and member of the Standing Committee.

In a predeparture statement to the news agency SABA', Brother Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah said: We were very pleased to visit Sanaa and meet with Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, to whom we communicated two messages from Brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Central Committee, and Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium. He added: We exchanged views and were very pleased with the understanding shown by Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his keen interest in making our endeavors successful and supporting us, and we depended on his sound directives.

Muhsin said that he exchanged with the brother officials viewpoints on various issues. Muhsin added: We agreed on many issues and only little remains to be done. We are satisfied with what we have achieved and we all seek to reach the cherished objective that is dear to us and to all the Yemeni people—that is, overall Yemeni unity.

Muhsin pointed out that genuine principles and constants are being prepared for the unity sought by the two parts, so that it will be in harmony with our circumstances and serve as an incentive for achieving a comprehensive unity.

Minister Interviewed on Moves Toward Unity

PM2711113589 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Nov 89 p 3

[Telephone interview with YAR Minister of State for Yemeni Unity Affairs Yahya al-'Arashi by Zaki Shihab; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Shihab] You have recently visited southern Yemen. What was the purpose of the visit?

[Al-'Arashi] The purpose of the visit was to resume talks and consultations on our unity affairs as many of the delaying factors are being eliminated.

The two parts of Yemen had previously discussed the (unity) plan submitted by the northern part with the aim of embarking on a new unity experiment that would pave the way and create the right circumstances for a full merger. So, further consultations were necessary. [passage omitted]

[Shihab] What are the new factors that have prompted Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid to say that the circumstances are now ripe for unity?

[Al-'Arashi] Actually, that is true. The time now is more appropriate than ever for unity. There is massive popular demand for unity in both parts of Yemen. [passage omitted]

[Shihab] In a previous answer you mentioned a unity plan. Does that plan differ in its contents from the constitution signed by the two parts?

[Al-'Arashi] In September 1988 we submitted a unity plan and we renewed contacts on it last Ramadan [April] in Aden. Then another meeting was held in Sanaa between working groups from the two parts. The southern delegation was headed by brother Fadl Muhsin. The fourth round on the same subject was held in Ta'izz on the sidelines of the meetings of the unified political organization committee headed, for the south, by brother Salim Salih, YSP assistant secretary general. Discussions were held in depth.

The meeting between President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and brother Salim produced good results which reflected on our meeting in Aden.

What I want to say here is that the unity plan submitted by us is being carefully studied by our brothers in the southern part.

[Shihab] What are the features of that plan?

[Al-'Arashi] Its target is a Yemeni unity experiment in fields where there are signs of duplication. Something that is very important is unification of Yemeni representation at international levels and also unification of our defense establishments and armies, which is the most important point, in addition to the unification of foreign policy establishments and the creation of a unified parliament, people's assembly, and a central federal government. [passage omitted]

[Shihab] Some reports claim that the two parts of Yemen intend to declare unity during the forthcoming Sanaa summit. Is there any truth in these reports?

[Al-'Arashi] That depends on future developments. The announcement of any unity steps will not be on any particular occasion. It is hoped that the month of December will be a fruitful month. The independence of South Yemen was declared 30 December 1967.

[Shihab] Has a date been set for the Yemeni summit meeting?

[Al-'Arashi] No date has been set yet. The task force will meet within the next few days and we will set a date.

[Shihab] Of whom will the task force consist?

[Al-'Arashi] Fadh Muhsin, Rashid Thabit, and the justice minister will represent the south and I and my colleagues will represent the north. [passage omitted]

Salih Sends Message to Soviet Leaders 28 Nov

JN2811182089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister brother 'Ali Ahmad al-Khadr received Soviet Ambassador Veniamin Popov in Sanaa today and handed him a message from brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, addressed to the Soviet leaders.

Salih Receives Phone Call From Al-Qadhdhafi

JN2811183489 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, today received a phone call from his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the September Revolution in Libya. During their conversation, they discussed the current unionist steps between the two parts of the homeland.

ister Leaves for Arab League Meeting

Labor Minist *89 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic*
JN2911144889 29 Nov 89
1200 GMT 29

er Ahmad Luqman, minister of social affairs
[Text] Brother nd Standing Committee member, left for
and labor and to participate in the Arab foreign ministers'
Tunis today to ession called for by the State of Palestine.
emergency ses

In a statement to SABA' news agency, he clarified that the meeting will discuss developments in the Middle East question, the united Arab stand, and action on an international level with the goal of finding a comprehensive and just solution to the Palestine question through an international peace conference and in light of the Casablanca summit resolutions with the participation of all the concerned parties including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people.

PLO Gives U.S. 'Green Light' on Baker Plan

TA0312061789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Dec 89 pp 1, 8

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpts] The PLO has given the U.S. a green light to proceed with U.S. Secretary of State Banker's five-point plan for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, and an official announcement to this effect is expected from Cairo within 48 hours, sources in Jerusalem said last night.

This dramatic and widely unexpected development comes in the wake of the administration's positive response to an unofficial PLO reply conveyed to Washington at the end of last week. The reply and subsequent steps in the peace process are to be discussed in the Mediterranean superpower summit, sources here said.

In its reply, the PLO agrees to proceed in accordance with Baker's proposals, on the basis of five assumptions, which include recognition of the PLO's exclusive right to appoint the Palestinian delegation.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 3 December in a similar report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar on page 1 adds: "The five assumptions added by the PLO to the first clause, in which it expresses its readiness to accept the five points, include the following demands:

—The PLO will be the one to decide on the delegation's composition.
—The agenda of the Cairo encounter will be open.
—The Palestinian peace initiative will be discussed in the Cairo encounter.
—The encounter will be conducted under the aegis of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, as well as Egypt and Sweden.
—The entire move is part of a process that would lead to an international conference.

The United States and Egypt have agreed that the approach to the PLO assumptions would be symmetrical to the U.S. attitude to Israel's assumptions. That is to say, they would not impede the next stage—the meeting of the U.S., Israeli, and Egyptian foreign ministers for a preparatory meeting."]

Washington has already indicated that it will proceed on the basis of what it now prefers to view as both Israeli and Arab acceptance of Baker's formula.

The development is most likely to create a serious crisis both within the Likud and in the national uinity government, especially in light of a message conveyed by Washington to the PLO, prior to its reply, which recognizes the "reality" of the PLO role in forming the Palestinian delegations.

Even before this latest concession, Washington last week rebuffed Foreign Minister Arens's stated dissatisfaction about the U.S. assurances to the PLO, which, he said contradict those contemplated for Israel. According to some sources, Arens had gone so far as to say that the Likud would have to "reconsider its acceptance of the Baker plan in light of the fact that American moves were embroiling Israel in indirect negotiations with the PLO." [passage omitted]

Earlier, the U.S. rebuffed Israeli protests concerning the assurances that Washington is willing to give the PLO, in exchange for the organization's acceptance of Baker's five-point plan, sources in Jerusalem said last night.

Ten days ago, Arens conveyed Jerusalem's concern and dissatisfaction with reports of wide-ranging assurances which Washington had agreed to give the PLO. Arens said that Washington's assurances to the PLO contradict those which the administration had promised to give to Israel.

The foreign minister's bureau last night refused to comment on the reports, saying only that "our policy on this matter is well-known to the U.S." Arens's stand was taken in the wake of deliberations held between him, Prime Minister Shamir and Likud ministers. It had not, apparently, been coordinated with either Vice Premier Peres or Defence Minister Rabin.

Sources here said that at the beginning of last week there had been "great agitation" in both Shamir's and Arens's bureaus at the reports of U.S. assurances to the PLO. One of the reasons for this was that Jerusalem had not received direct information from Washington on contacts with the PLO, and had to rely on third-party reports and information from other sources.

Arens' Adviser Says PLO Reply of No Interest

TA0412080189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Israel is in no way interested in the PLO's position toward the Baker plan, the foreign minister's adviser in Jerusalem has told our political correspondent Arye Golan. The adviser noted that Israel has been holding negotiations with the United States and Egypt and is still awaiting Egypt's reply to the U.S. secretary of state's proposal.

These remarks come in reaction to reports that the PLO has relayed its response to the amended Baker plan to U.S. Ambassador in Tunis Robert Pelletreau. It transpires from this response that the PLO insists that Palestinians will not negotiate with Israel unless they are appointed by the organization and that the delegation will include Palestinian representatives from the territories and outside them. The PLO's response to the United States voices disappointment at the fact that the Americans ignore the PLO's role in composing the delegation to the dialogue.

U.S.-Egyptian 'Tense Tug-of-War' Reported

TA0412082489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Dec 89 pp 1, 8

[Report by Menahem Shalev and agencies]

[Excerpts] Washington and Cairo are engaged in a tense tug-of-war over the U.S. administration's request for a clearly positive Egyptian response to Secretary of State Baker's five-point plan, which does not specifically mention the PLO, sources in Jerusalem said last night.

The American-Egyptian exchange emerged following the weekend submission of what the PLO yesterday described as its "final word" on the Baker formula. The organization's complex and convoluted response is eliciting differing, and sometimes conflicting, evaluations within the administration, as well as in Cairo and Jerusalem.

The formal Arab response to the Baker plan is supposed to come from Cairo.

Cairo, it is understood, is claiming that the PLO response does not authorize it to leave out any specific mention of the PLO in the Egyptian response. Cairo is also questioning the PLO about whether the phrasing of its attitude towards the Baker plan does, indeed, constitute acceptance. [passage omitted]

The U.S., it is understood, is trying to persuade Egypt that the PLO reply gives Cairo enough leeway to answer positively to Baker's formula, with the proviso that the Egyptians would attach "assumptions" derived from the PLO response. [passage omitted]

The Prime Minister's Office flatly denied a report in the Kuwaiti paper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM which said that Prime Minister Shamir had agreed in Washington to include two deported Palestinians in a Palestinian delegation to peace talks. "This is an absolute lie," the prime minister's spokesmen said, adding that Shamir opposes the inclusion of "outside" Palestinians because they are intended to symbolize PLO participation in talks, as well as the Palestinian demand for the "right of return."

It was unclear, however, whether the premier's opposition extends to the formula now being contemplated by the U.S., by which the deported Palestinians would be allowed by the Defence Ministry to return to the territories and then be nominated as representatives.

Labour sources claimed yesterday that the PLO response provided a basis on which a positive Egyptian answer could be formulated, and that it was viewed as such by some State Department officials. Likud sources claimed the contrary. [passage omitted]

What was not in dispute, however, was the fact that the U.S. had conveyed in recent weeks at least two sets of far-reaching assurances to the PLO, which aroused great anger in the Likud; the first, detailing American attitudes towards the dialogue and, separately, towards the international conference and the peace-for-territories formula; and the second, containing American "recognition of the reality" of the PLO role in appointing the Palestinian delegation while negating any public role for the organization.

The U.S. also said that the composition of the delegation to the dialogue does not "prejudge" the makeup of future Palestinian delegations. [passage omitted]

Soviet Offer for Meeting With PLO Rejected

TA0112131489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has again stated that the PLO cannot play any role in the negotiations. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that Jerusalem reacted today to the repeated Soviet proposal that a meeting be held in Moscow between Israel and the PLO. The foreign minister's spokesman said that the Soviets know our position on the matter very well. The proposal was originally broached during the Shevardnadze-Arens meeting [in New York].

Arens Denies PLO Accepts Baker's Five Points

TA0312063189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has said that he has not received any information that the PLO has accepted Secretary of State Baker's five points and that the United States has agreed not to agree to a Palestinian representation without the inclusion of the PLO. Reports on this were published this morning in HA'ARETZ and THE JERUSALEM POST.

In response to a question by our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami on whether he conveyed to Baker his dissatisfaction over the U.S. stand, Foreign Minister Arens said that he has not had any recent contacts with the U.S. secretary of state, either by telephone or otherwise, and therefore he has not conveyed any message.

Knesset Member Foresees Negotiations With PLO

LD0212211489 Kuwait KUNA in English 2002 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Report by Rashid al-Rewaished]

[Text] Washington, Dec 2 (KUNA)—Member of the Israeli Parliament, Mohamad Miari, predicted Saturday that Israel will hold talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization within the coming three months.

Miari, in an interview with KUNA, said Israel will enter the negotiations not because of their desire to hold such talks but "because of the mounting pressure from the intifidah and from Europe."

He also predicted that the ongoing summit in Malta between President Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will also pressure Israel to reconsider its position. Miari, who is on a visit to the U.S. to take part in the 21st annual convention of "The United Holy Land Fund," said that he will have talks with officials at the State Department "to explain to them the developments in the occupied territories from the Palestinian point of view."

He said the Israeli coalition government will fall apart after the start of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. "As soon as the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations discuss the details they will reach a deadlock," said Miari. "And then the government will fall apart and the Labour Party will take the initiative and form the government and continue the talks."

Miari expressed support to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and his peace moves. He said, "The 700,000 Arabs in Palestine are doing all they can to help Palestinians in the territories attain their legitimate rights."

"As a member of the Israeli Knesset I use the podium to express the Palestinian point of view," and urge the Israelis to stop this barbaric practices committed against the Palestinian civilians, said Miari. He lauded the "courageous stand" of Europe and urged the Arab countries to pressure "the international decision-makers" to support the Palestinian cause.

He called on the Arab countries to give more support to the Palestinian people in the territories and warned that the standard of living in the territories was dropped by 60 percent.

He said that Israel is working to destroy the economic situation in the territories by targeting small businesses and imposing taxation.

The intifada in the occupied territories is not cooling down, said Miari. He added, the intifadah was born as a result of more than 20 years of occupation and will continue as strong.

'Indirect Dialogue' Reported With PLO Leaders

TA0412075689 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 Dec 89 p 2

[Report by 'Uzi Mahanaymi]

[Text] It has been learned from Palestinian sources in Tunis that there has been an indirect dialogue between party elements in Israel and the PLO leadership in recent weeks. Messages were transmitted to Tunis by emissaries from Israel, including a direct appeal to 'Arafat to moderate his positions and first of all accept the Baker plan as it is.

It has been learned that the PLO leadership returned messages to party elements in Israel, including its well-drafted position on the process, the main point being: Without the PLO there will be no progress in the peace process.

In the meantime, it has been reported that the emerging concept in the United States is that because of the political deadlock and the inability to hold the prepatory meeting in Cairo, there will be no choice but to prepare to convene an international conference under the aegis of the two superpowers.

Final Returns in Histadrut Elections Published

TA0312120589 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 3 Dec 89 p 5

[All figures as published]

[Excerpt] This weekend, the central committee for elections to the Histadrut institutions confirmed by a majority of votes the final returns of the elections. The committee also unanimously decided to enter committee chairman Jacques Amir's name into the Jewish National Fund's golden book—a custom usually applied to Knesset elections committee chairmen.

The following are the final results, as published officially:

The 16th Histadrut Convention

Labor (Emet)	55.07%	(443,263 votes)
MAPAM (MAPAM)	8.97%	(72,197 votes)
Likud (Mahal)	27.49%	(221,251 votes)
CRM (Ratz)	3.98%	(32,603 votes)
Joint Arab List (Sh)	4.49%	(36,182 votes)

The total number of eligible voters: 1,446,838; actual voters: 821,592; voting percentage: 56.79. [passage omitted]

[Key to abbreviations in the table: MAPAM—United Workers Party; CRM—Citizens Rights Movement. Data contained in parentheses next to party names are the parties' chosen symbols appearing on the ballot slips.]

Rabin Says 'No Fear' of Involvement in Lebanon

TA0312124089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said today that there is no fear that Israel will find itself involved in events in Lebanon. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Rabin was responding to a question addressed to him by Minister Moshe Qatzav at the Cabinet meeting.

Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said at the meeting that the Gaza Strip is Israel's fiasco [herbon]. The remarks were made during an exchange between Minister Peres and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Minister Peres said our economic situation will improve if we are politically strong. The prime minister retorted: The question is whether Israel will be around at all then. Shim'on Peres responded to that: There is nothing to fear. It was Ben-Gurion who decided on partition, and

we can decide on giving up Gaza. Gaza is a big fiasco [herbon] for Israel. Several ministers corrected him during the meeting and Minister Peres said that he had meant to say Israel's ruin [hurban].

The government approved a supplementary budget for the current year to the tune of 2.4 billion shekels. Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that it was decided that the prime minister and the vice prime minister would appoint a ministerial team to decide from where to cut 150 million shekels to be earmarked for immigrant absorption.

Peres Interviewed on Peace Plan, Labor's Stand

JN0112200889 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
29 Nov 89 p 4

[Interview with Israeli Finance Minister Shim'on Peres by Amirah Hasan in Jerusalem; date not given; question and answer format as published]

[Text] I asked Shim'on Peres: What is the state of the peace talks following Shamir's visit to the United States?

Peres: Shamir's visit is not what the problem is about. It has more to do with talks about the talks. It is up to both sides to give answers. Israel has given its answers on Baker's five points. We are now awaiting the Egyptian-Palestinian reply.

Egypt is making gigantic efforts to propel the peace process forward and bring about a positive answer. We respect these efforts. We, therefore, are in the thick of the negotiations. As to where and how these negotiations will take place, these are marginal issues.

Question: What more does the Israeli Government want from the PLO? The PLO has recognized Israel's right to exist and the UN resolutions. Why do you not yourself initiate a dialogue with the PLO?

Peres: That is not the point. All the world is now going to the polls—even in Eastern Europe. Why not talk to a PLO that has contested elections and settled the question democratically. This is better than other organizations. I do not want to interfere in the PLO's affairs. We would rather that a decision be made through the ballot box. That makes a difference.

Question: The outcome is a foregone conclusion since all the population in the occupied territories sees the PLO as its spokesman. You yourself know that without a green light from the PLO there cannot be any movement.

Answer: We are not proposing the PLO. We are for elections as happens around the world. Whatever the choice of the population of the territories we will honor. I know that they hold views and ideologies different from mine. I would like, therefore, to see two elected groups, each in his home. [sentence as published]

[Hasan] And what would come after the elections?

[Peres] We start negotiations.

[Hasan] What will you talk about?

[Peres] Each of the two sides will put its proposals on the table.

[Hasan] Nothing has been achieved since the Israeli Government proposed elections 6 months ago in May. How much longer will it be before differences over the composition of the Palestinian delegation are resolved?

[Peres] I think the first phase is over. The second phase concerns the Palestinian and American partners. To be sure, slow progress is being made. In my opinion, though, the issue should be settled in a matter of weeks.

[Hasan] What is the point at which the Labor Party will quit the government?

[Peres] The point is whether the peace process will continue or not. We support the negotiations. Only if the negotiations cease will we quit the government.

[Hasan] More than 5 years have gone by for the national unity coalition government, yet the peace march has not budged.

[Peres] We withdrew from Lebanon and returned Tabah, which was important to Egypt. We proposed elections and called Jordan to a settlement. These four things are very important.

[Hasan] The Labor Party supports trading land for peace. The Likud, however, is against withdrawing from one inch of the occupied territories. Therefore, what is the joint issue between you and what will happen now?

[Peres] If there is a road with a distance of 100 km of which we can travel 20 km together, we will do so. Today, there is the issue of elections, the transformation stage, and autonomy. We say this and do not wish to hide it. Today we have a say in the Knesset, especially after the groups that support our stand, including the religious parties, have grown.

[Hasan] Does the Labor Party exploit the threats of the religious parties, such as SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] and Agudat Yisra'el, to quit the government to establish a mini-government headed by the Labor Party?

[Peres] When we start talking about a mini-government, talk about peace stops. If I give you an answer to this question, all newspapers will start talking about it tomorrow, whereas the important subject we want to concentrate on is the issue of peace or no peace. Now, we are concentrating on the basic issue until we reach the necessary conclusions concerning the future of the unity government.

[Hasan] Is Shim'on Peres disappointed and does he regret having been chosen minister of finance rather than

foreign affairs, especially since economic recession and unemployment are widespread in Israel? The post is also far-removed from politics.

[Peres] I am not removed from politics. To be so is very difficult for me from the personal point of view. On the national level however, I took the right decision, especially since I have started extricating the country from economic recession. The problem is not that of popularity, especially after I succeeded in saving the kibbutzim, agricultural villages, developmental villages, and the Arab milieu.

[Hasan] What sort of relationship do Peres and Rabin have today, especially since Rabin sees you as Labor Party chief until the next elections, as he told me in an interview?

[Peres] This is true because I am elected from one election to the next where I have to be reelected. What concerns me today is economic development. That is what is worrying me.

[Hasan] Are you worried by the strong relations between Shamir and Rabin?

[Peres] I do not want to judge personal matters. However, in the recent Knesset elections, I appeared with Rabin at a press conference and proposed the elections. This is what I believed in and still believe in. What worries me is not Shamir's relations with Rabin, but the peace process. And this is more important, and can be achieved.

[Hasan] Do you believe that Shamir seeks peace?

[Peres] They say so.

[Hasan] But what does Peres say?

[Peres] In politics, we judge things in accordance with deeds. This is the test.

[Hasan] During Shamir's visit to the United States, we saw that the American Jews—as in Israel—are divided with regard to the peace process. What effect will this have on Israel?

[Peres] It is not public opinion that affects peace; the opposite is true. I believe that the entire world has changed in 1989 and is moving toward peace. The important thing today is to have good external relations, not to start wars.

[Hasan] We have not heard your voice during the 2 years of the intifadah. Where were you?

[Peres] The defense minister is in a difficult position. The defense minister and I believe that the solution to the intifadah can be achieved through political and direct negotiations.

[Hasan] What is the effect of the intifadah on Shim'on Peres?

[Peres] In my opinion, the Palestinians were and still are a people. And the intifadah is one of the expressions of the conflict. I also believe that we should not rule the Palestinians against their will with or without the intifadah. I want to see the Palestinians live respected and prosperous like other people. In my opinion, all people on earth are equal and there is no difference in terms of color, race, religion, or doctrine. I say this as a Jew; and the Jews have no ambitions to become the masters of another people. This thing has ended in history.

[Hasan] If you do not want to become masters of the Palestinian people, where is the logic in the Israeli Government's insistence on selecting the Palestinian delegation to negotiations?

[Peres] The Government of Israel does not want to decide who should be within the Palestinian delegation. It says that the Palestinians should choose the Palestinian delegation before the elections. Then, an agreed upon delegation will be formed. This delegation will not replace the permanent delegation that will be elected by the Palestinians. Therefore, there are no practical differences. The differences are about who to talk to about the negotiations.

Commentary Contends Shamir 'Losing His Grip'

TA2811124989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Nov 89 p 11

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "At the Moment, He Has Hit Rock Bottom"]

[Text] Like the bee that flies from one flower to another, Shamir traveled from one capital to another on two continents; however, unlike the bee, who collects pollen in the course of its flight, Shamir collected slaps in the face—many slaps in the face. He came back all smiles and as optimistic as usual, but we should not be fooled by this: The flush on his face was not caused by contentment, but by pain.

Saying that his trip did not yield results would be charitable toward Shamir, seeing that this was an embarrassing trip from beginning to end, with the most humiliating part—in fact, the most worrisome on the national level—being the U.S. leg of it. Shamir's ordeal began even before his arrival, with the very fact that until the last moment it was not clear whether President Bush would find the time to grant him an audience at the White House. Such a thing had never happened to us before, and it was humiliating, very humiliating, given that Shamir did not even have the option of playing the injured party and giving up the visit. After all, one cannot put up a "front" with a country on which one is so dependent, and that makes it ten times more humiliating.

Finally, when he got to Bush, an unpleasant session awaited him. With the administration suspecting Shamir of leading it down the garden path with his election plan, for 1 hour and 20 minutes Bush simply gave Shamir a hard time with all sorts of arguments, complaints, and

criticism. This, too, had never happened before. Thirty minutes were dedicated to the settlements and the violation of human rights in the territories. Afterward, Bush called Shamir on the carpet regarding Israel's relations with South Africa, which the CIA had leaked to the media a week earlier in a bid to provide the President with yet more cause to give Shamir a hard time. Bush even pulled Shaykh 'Ubayd out of mothballs and reprimanded Shamir for the entire concept, stressing the fact that he would not conduct negotiations on a hostage exchange.

After their tete-a-tete, Bush surprised Shamir when he reiterated the same words he had told him in private in front of the working teams. This had never happened before either. In the course of his talks, Shamir realized that the administration had no intention of granting Israel individual veto rights. Moreover, the U.S. also showed that it had not given up on the inclusion of deportees in the Palestinian delegation or the participation of the inhabitants of East Jerusalem in the elections. It also showed that it had no intention of giving Israel any secret assurances, certainly not assurances that contradict its fundamental position that Israel should get out of the territories.

More than once in the past few years Israeli prime ministers have departed for the United States amid predictions of imminent crises, but they have always returned triumphantly, proving all doomsayers wrong. This is the first time that the predictions have come true. Shamir brought back a crisis in his relations with the administration, along with the latter's determination to realize the proposed elections by pressuring Shamir in all spheres: through reprimands, by showing him the cold shoulder, through public criticism, and by resorting to degrading leaks. Furthermore, it does not look like they are going to let up, and the situation will only get worse if Shamir digs in his heels and perpetuates the stalemate. What is at stake here is the administration's credibility. No U.S. President likes to feel that he has been conned, and certainly not one who is not particularly hot about Israel.

Not only is he losing his grip on America (not to mention peace), but also on his party—first and foremost, within his own camp. The split among the Likud princes is now a fact. Their smiles, sweeter than honey, have recently begun to look somewhat forced. Their refreshing niceness has somewhat dulled and, as is the case in every royal court, jealousy and intrigues have emerged. Ehud Olmert has been impaled and Roni Milo has been deprived of his birthright (thus disregarding the fact that he is the man who actually created Shamir). Dan Meridor tripped up with his civil rights law and Beni Begin, who was said to be the most serious of the lot, "flunked" his first practical test as head of the Histadrut election campaign.

As all the camps (including that of Shamir himself) grew disappointed with Arens, the constraints ministers proved to be stronger than initially thought. They have amassed power and have Shamir by the throat. People who had been ready to defect to Shamir's camp found themselves faced with a leader who is fenced in on all sides and who is leading a government dominated by his party nowhere. It comes as no surprise that the Likud leadership is demoralized. Shamir's knack for procrastination and inertia has reached the point where it is working against him. The weakness that had been his strength is now exposed for what it is: weakness. Pressured from both inside and outside, Shamir has now gone right over the top of the mountain and is heading downhill.

The Israeli people behave in a rather bizarre manner: After the tragedy of the Yom Kippur War, they voted for the Alignment; after the Lebanese war and inflation, they voted for the Likud; after the collapse of the Histadrut holding companies, they voted for the Alignment. But those who think that one must screw up in order to succeed and succeed in order to screw up are wrong. Our people simply suffer from delayed reactions; therefore, from the historical point of view, Shamir and the Likud are in trouble.

America and Shamir's very own party are slipping through his fingers, and if he does not rise to the occasion and make some kind of breakthrough to end the stalemate, he also stands to lose his constituency. At the moment, he has hit rock bottom.

Bin-Shakir Reportedly Resigns; Badran New PM

JN0412124089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Excerpt] Jordanian Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir today tendered his government's resignation to King Husayn, who charged Mudar Badran with forming a new government. The new government is expected to be announced within the next 48 hours. Our radio learned four ministerial portfolios will be occupied by members of the Islamic trend in parliament, and that at least five ministers who served in the government of Bin-Shakir will remain in the government.

Parliament Responds to Husayn's 27 Nov Speech

House of Representatives Reply

JN0312181689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1628 GMT 3 Dec 89

["Text" of the House of Representatives' reply to King Husayn's speech from the throne on 27 November, delivered by House of Representatives Speaker Sulayman 'Arar at the Royal Hashemite Court in Amman on 3 December—recorded; text of the Amman Television version of King Husayn's speech was published on pages 35-42 in the 28 November issue of the Daily Report under the headline "King Husayn's Parliament Inauguration Speech"]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God be praised for his graces through which good deeds are realized. Prayers and peace be upon the greatest grace granted to mankind, our Prophet Muhammad, and upon his family and followers: Your Majesty King Husayn, may God support you and take care of you. The people's deputies have the honor to meet with your majesty in full appreciation and respect, and to pledge to Almighty God that they will continue to march forward under your leadership in order to satisfy God, represent the patient and steadfast people, promote their hopes, express their pains and ambitions, and exert every effort to make them happy and capable.

Today the deputies are holding a meeting of love and honor with your majesty to place in your majesty's hands their concept of the coming stage in the life of our nation and to epitomize the saying of Almighty God: Who conduct their affairs by mutual consultation [koranic verse] so that a Jordan of sacrifice, steadfastness, justice, freedom, and extensive participation can be realized.

The deputies have studied the principles and bases of your royal speech to use them to serve the people and win your good opinion and that of the people, who have elected them. They also feel overwhelming happiness as they experience this historic stage, when your majesty ordered the holding of free and fair elections, which the people had long awaited and whose absence they had suffered from. The elections came as a unique example of truthful participation in decisionmaking and of the freedom of expression—a fact that has raised Jordan's head high in international circles and made it an object of praise. We hope this wise experience will be promoted and will continue and last. We hope after submitting it to the parliament, the electoral law will be approved to achieve the aspirations of the people to fully express their will and freedom.

Our citizens' awareness has greatly contributed to the results, which our people have picked through, and which have saved them from entering into a dark tunnel and facing confusing losses. This also will prevent the division of our domestic front and the disruption of our dear Jordan and will block the efforts of those who raise the slogan that Jordan is the solution and those who spread the idea of the alternative homeland. We view these trends as an entrenchment of the Israeli enemy's presence in Palestine and as a big service for ugly world colonialism, especially the United States, which always supports Israel against the Palestinian people by foiling every international resolution condemning Israel.

We also hope your majesty's goals, which are completely in harmony with the goals of your loyal people in national unity and cohesion, will be achieved through persistent work and continuous efforts to make the experience of consultation and democracy a success—an experience that has come in implementation of the desires of our wise leadership and our loyal people.

Your Majesty, we share your opinion on the need to take care of the Jordanian Armed Forces by providing them with the support, care, and training they deserve, and by supplying them with the modern weapons and equipment they need to fulfill their sacred duty in repelling the danger against our country in the present, or in fighting the battle of honor and dignity in the future to liberate Palestine, the destination of Prophet Muhammad's nocturnal journey and the birthplace of his brother Jesus. May God's blessing and prayers be upon them, and all usurped Arab territories.

The fact our Army is named the Arab Army is but proof our battle is not a local one with narrow dimensions, but a battle of our nation as a whole in the fields of unity and dignity.

We support your majesty in your mention of the need to reinforce the security organs so they will become the guardian whose first, and only, task is to protect and safeguard the citizen; endeavor to give supremacy to law and order; provide tranquility for the homeland; and protect its citizens' lives, property, and freedom.

By preparing our Army as best we can, by supplying it with the most modern equipment, and by developing our security to turn it into an internal shield, we will have (?understood) and endeavored to establish cohesion on both our internal and external fronts.

One of the essentials for protecting the citizen's security is to provide a broad canopy of constitutional public freedoms, whereby human rights will be respected and dignity protected. This is because the best way to protect and reinforce security is the citizen's conviction he is guardian of his country and he is trustworthy of his sacred things, his property, and his children's dignity. This will make security come from within and from every citizen's mind, through a genuine affiliation to his country, people, and nation.

Self-security, peace of mind, and dignified life for the citizens will provide security, peace, and safety for both the homeland and the citizen. This will be the strongest kind of security and the firmest foundation on which a strong structure, each part holding up the other, can be built.

Your majesty, we were pleased when you confidently and faithfully announced that your responsibility—in terms of leadership and people—toward Jerusalem, the al-Aqsa Mosque, and the Palestine question is a deep-rooted responsibility. This proves the disengagement of legal and administrative ties with our brothers to the west of the river [River Jordan] does not mean forgetting the kinfolk or abandoning them at a time when they suffer from the enemy's oppression and its suppression of their ambitions and aspirations for liberation and living in dignity on their soil—blessed Palestine. It behooves us all to exert more effort to provide more aid and assistance to them, particularly by providing freedom of movement and travel in Jordan and the freedom to market their products, and by supporting their economy until they establish their state and liberate their territory.

Your majesty, the sound political logic and the adoption of the constitution as the main basis for any step we take, forces us to refer to the lofty position the constitution assumes in our country's political life. This requires maintaining its aura of respect and reinforcing it by ensuring the laws promulgated agree with the constitution, so there will be no legitimacy whatsoever for any law that contradicts the clauses of the constitution. One of the priorities of this House is to take great interest in all the laws that were, or will be, issued. The conformity and agreement of those laws with the constitution will be subjected to study and review. Therefore, we believe this calls for setting up a supreme constitutional court.

The deputies of the people, by taking inspiration from the constitution, are concerned with honoring the principle of the separation of powers: legislative, executive, and judicial. They submit that the spread of the executive power at the expense of the others is bound to upset the balance sought by the constitution. Hence, they urge a reconsideration of laws to promote the independence and sanctity of the judiciary. They also call for cancelling the immunity enjoyed by administrative resolutions, and suggest the high fees incurred in court cases may discourage citizens with grievances to bring action before the courts of law.

The deputies of the people hold the martial, extraordinary, and special courts have outlasted their usefulness and that the ordinary courts serve the purpose and may satisfactorily fulfil their task, especially if these have the experience and integrity your majesty has referred to. Accordingly, the deputies of the people support revocation of the martial law and amendment of the defense law.

In education, the House urges streamlining educational programs after evaluation to ensure a sound national upbringing proceeding from our civilization and our Islamic creed, and to deepen the behavioral and disciplinary aspects in our youngsters, and to pay increased attention to teachers to make the profession more attractive and boost respect for teachers.

The deputies would like to assert to your majesty that basic and secondary education should be a protected right to be enjoyed by all our children and that no one should be denied the opportunity to pursue his learning because he lacks the means. The deputies regrettably note the general level of education is low in the countryside compared with the cities, and it varies from governorate to governorate. They hope the Ministry of Education will work to redress the situation. The parallel education coming from various forms of the media is no less important and influential on the community than the traditional form of education. Hence, it is important information programs be charted and oriented so they do not clash with the educational process in the kingdom. It also is important that increased leeway be given to journalism and other media in harmony with the creed of the nation and its civilization.

It is high time a comprehensive re-evaluation was made of community college curricula, with a view to raising the standards of their graduates and matching the nation's expectations for them. The deputies express their conviction of the importance of equal opportunities for students and of widening the base of admission to the universities. Youth welfare is a joint governmental and popular enterprise. However, we hope youth programs will be energized and geared to promoting our creed, traditions, customs, and national characteristics. Our national culture cannot possibly be enriched short of being buttressed by a program of openness. It will not be possible to release energies short of liberties being released. Hence, journalism, unions, specialized leagues and professional unions must be afforded the utmost protection and independence.

The House holds that the time is ripe for evaluating the experiment of divorcing therapeutic medication from preventive medicine to obtain effective means to streamline medical service in the kingdom. The House has noted the government's effort to control the price of medicine. But it also notes the scarcity or nonexistence of certain basic medications at hospitals and health centers, especially in the countryside and bedouin areas.

The House urges concerned ministries study the feasibility of main, rural, and agricultural roads before laying them down. In the field of air transport, the House wishes to study the situation of our national airline, Royal Jordanian, from all angles to ensure useful and economic performance of its activities. This also applies to land and sea transport.

In the field of agriculture, the deputies of the people wish to see an advanced leap forward to achieve optimal use of agricultural resources; correct the process of production and marketing; revise the roles of the Agriculture Ministry, the marketing company, the marketing corporation, the agricultural credit corporation, and the cooperative society; handle the debts of small farmers; and break the monopoly of marketing brokers and those who trade with agricultural raw material.

At any rate, farmers' participation in planning their work and making related decisions through qualitative farmers' unions must be ensured. The people's deputies believe in giving importance to the question of establishing an authority to promote the eastern and southern regions through comprehensive development—digging wells; surveying the soil; exploring oil, water, and mineral resources; laying down roads; providing educational and health services; and making arrangements for marketing the products of those regions. Renewed attention to the agricultural sector requires, before anything else, the distribution of state-owned lands to agriculturally-qualified people through productive cooperative societies.

In the field of water, the House highly appreciates the extension of water pipes to about 97 percent of the people, but it wishes to see improvement in the provision of water through all these pipes and in the distribution of water in a fair manner, especially in the rural areas.

In the field of dams, the House views with appreciation the existing cooperation between the Governments of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic in establishing the al-Wahdah dam.

In the industry field, the House views with satisfaction the role of the phosphate, fertilizers, and potash companies in increasing output, in exportation, and in securing foreign currency revenues. The House believes attention should be paid to increasing local industrial raw material, improving industrial output, and controlling quality. A distinction must be drawn between sympathizing with national industry by protecting it from the competition of imported commodities, and imposing very high prices and producing low-quality commodities. From this premise, protection must be balanced to achieve a host of desirable goals. What is required is giving certain importance to the industrial sector to build the firm industrial base that depends on research and self-promotion, and to begin establishing public industrial ventures based on intensive science, work, and capital. This only can be achieved by drawing a sound economic plan based on scientific foundations and laws removed from bureaucracy and individual decisionmaking.

In the field of supply and internal trade, the House views with concern the high jump in prices—a jump that exceeded the level of decline in the dinar's exchange rate. This indicates other economic and non-economic reasons have taken prices to this high level. We also do not forget the presence of foodstuffs that do not meet standards; this necessitates strengthening control to prevent leakage of anything that may harm the life and dignity of man. Hence comes the importance of creating parallel markets for medicine, food, and clothes.

Your Majesty, our country experienced an economic setback, a heavy debt, and the depletion of the kingdom's reserves. This had led to disastrous consequences from which the citizens have suffered in a manner that nearly led to dire results. The people's deputies believe the causes and roles that led to this setback should be identified to assign responsibilities and learn lessons to prevent the recurrence of this tragedy and preserve the people's trust in the soundness of their march.

The deputies of the people would like to express thanks and appreciation to sister Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Qatar, and the Amirate of Dubai for their blessed efforts to support Jordan during the crisis. This has helped redress the state of affairs.

We look forward to continuing constructive efforts to build the kingdom's hard currency reserves by rationalizing imports, increasing exports, encouraging transfers, and preserving the remaining gold reserves. The new approaches used by the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] deserve praise. The House of Representatives would like to continue supporting the CBJ's independence and activities. At the same time, the House would like the CBJ to tighten its supervision on the banks and financial institutions in a manner that will secure the safety and prosperity of the national economy. The House would like to have access to the facts and roles that led to the crisis in which the previous CBJ and Petra Bank administrations found themselves, and the extent of the damage that resulted from this.

The House values your majesty's uncompromising line toward financial corruption and economic crimes. From this premise, it is inevitable the facts be disclosed if we are to maintain trust. Your majesty has referred to the Labor Ministry's efforts in channeling job seekers into available jobs. Your Majesty also has referred to the development and employment fund so it may offer the necessary advice and expertise to the citizen who is looking for work. We would like to mention here unemployment should be tackled through the establishment of investment projects in the public and private sectors for the employment of the jobless. The deputies believe the

establishment of more agencies will increase the financial burdens. From this premise, we believe the establishment of a specialized agency for administrative control will upgrade the efficiency of the public administration bodies and improve their performance, not to mention budgetary control, which is the responsibility of the audit department, whose measures should become more effective.

We share your majesty's concern for the environment and the need to save it from pollution. This can take place by increasing the prerogatives of the agency tasked with such a responsibility and by paying special attention to waste treatment plants and their effluents.

We bless your reference to and your assertion the Palestinian people have succeeded through their blessed intifadah to impose themselves and their just cause in a manner that has made the world pay attention to them in a way unprecedented during the past four decades. The decision to legally and administratively disengage [from the West Bank] has occured because of developments in international, Arab, and Palestinian stands. However, this does not mean abandoning the struggling Palestinian people or not supporting them with all we possess and all we can do to establish the free Palestinian state in accordance with the Palestinian people's wishes and aspirations on their blessed and pure land. We find ourselves dutybound to note here one of the many great achievements of the noble Jordanian people: their persistent struggle and their confrontation of the British and Zionist Israeli invaders since 1919, not to mention they accorded their brothers, the inhabitants of Palestine, a welcome similar to that accorded to the Muslims of Mecca by the Muslims of Medina, sharing with them their sufferings and hopes.

Your Majesty, what pleases us and instills confidence in us is your saying the twin Palestinian people are worthy of our appreciation and support and of our extending to them a sacrificing hand for their lofty and honorable stance, which seeks further government and popular support, and for further assistance to the intifadah heroes and dear strugglers. We look forward to the day we resume our march toward comprehensive Arab unity in one Arab homeland, which constitutes one of the stages of a greater leading Islamic unity in response to God's saying: Verily, this brotherhood of yours is a single brotherhood, and I am your Lord and cherisher: Therefore serve me and no other. [koranic verses]

While we believe what has been achieved in terms of regional councils of Arab cooperation is the right step on the right course toward greater and more comprehensive objectives, we also believe that although the contradictions that exist among other nations do not exist among our nation's states, these nations nevertheless have established among themselves bridges of trust, cooperation, and unity that have introduced them to the world as one nation making a single decision on everyday issues. This has enabled them to influence developments.

In light of the constructive role th
play in this regard, we believe
developing the work of the Arab
particularly regarding the fateful

Your Majesty, we acknowledge
ship's leading role in closing Arat
iation and accord summit in A
summit played an effective role
stand toward the Iraq-Iran war, wi
it not have broken out, or contif
this war was stopped has refreshe
a dark page of fighting among b
We hope these conflicts will end
arenas of our glorious nation so w
against the fierce Israeli onslau
Islamic homelands. We share yo
Iranian leadership to take the ir
nation into consideration to put
devastating war against our capa
which we must save to fight a co
whose ambitions have gone far be
region and which is dreaming o
state on the rubble of our existe
quences of this war in terms of
foremost of which is the prisoners
sides; and to restore normal rela
between the two countries to gu
our Arab and Islamic region.

Regarding Lebanon, the wound
for a decade and half, the respons
its ordeal is that of the entire nat
No procrastination can be toler
Effective and forceful action shou
wounds and stop its bleeding by
able means so we can make out o
oasis of security and stability buil
narrow sectarianism and the rel
which has caused and still is
Although its role is very importa
mittee needs the efforts of other p
the right course and check the
particularly Israel, to prevent it fr
Lebanon's security, unity, and
almighty God give guidance to its
overcome hateful sectarian chauv
its current situation.

Internationally, the House, while
ernmen's efforts to strengthen ties
various states on the basis of
international credibility, believes
these states based on their positio
causes. This defines the dimensi
with them so we can distinguish
and another when we want to de
the mixing of the cards. Some
important role in the internation
our nation's causes. Despite this,
tain active trade relations. As a
difficult for our citizens to un

legislative power can
the importance of
arliamentary unions,
in-Arab issues.

e Hashemite leader-
anks at the reconcil-
man in 1987. This
n unifying the Arab
h we beseeched God
ed so long. The fact
our hopes of turning
thers and neighbors.
and vanish from the
will be in one trench
t on the Arab and
r appeal to the new
rests of the Islamic
lefinitive end to this
lities and resources,
mon usurper enemy
ond the limits of this
erecting a universal
e; to end the conse-
e existing tragedies,
ssue between the two
ns of neighborliness
antee the security of

at has been bleeding
lity of saving it from
n without exception.
ed on this problem.
be taken to dress its
possible and avail-
, as it used to be, an
on bases that eschew
quishing of religion,
using this situation.
the tripartite com-
ties to set matters on
ots of our enemies,
n playing havoc with
ability. We beseech
eaders and people to
ism, which has led to

ppreciating the gov-
f friendship with the
utual interests and
n setting criteria for
toward our national
s of future dealings
etween one country
with it and prevent
tates that have no
arena have ignored
e continue to main-
sult, it has become
rstand the conflict

between these principles and our dealing with these countries. At the same time, the House stresses the need to intensify Islamic action through the Islamic action organization and the nonaligned countries in order to serve our common issues.

Your Majesty, in line with your decision to set up a royal committee to formulate a national charter and draw up the framework of our march on the basis of the provisions of the constitution and the principles on which the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is founded, and to define the basic and central national and pan-Arab concepts that will guide the state and activate political organizations; and in harmony with our people's free will which has emerged brilliantly through free and fair elections, we believe this House is an honest expression of that will, and it also will contribute to formulating that charter, which we hope will go through the legitimate channels stipulated in the constitution, foremost of which is the House of Representatives.

Your Majesty, we are with you, may God preserve you, in understanding the situation we are experiencing and the conditions we are facing. We hope we will start a more confident and positive move to correct mistakes and rebuild what was shaken. Through a certain cooperation and by making sacrifices for the sake of the continuation of the march of construction in our country, we will give an example to the whole world that our Jordan knows no despair and no problem can destroy it.

We fully understand the aspects of civilization and construction achieved in our country are denied only by the presumptuous. However, we are seeking more purity and objectivity; we are trying to purify our march and reject crookedness in it, which we hope will lead along the right road and result in security and honorable life. Dealing with the issues of the homeland and the problems of the society, and safeguarding the people's real interests, require a deep sense of these issues, a full understanding of these problems, and a keen interest in the people's interests. These traits should be obvious in those who assume responsibility to help you guide the ship to the shore of safety.

We beseech God this House will help you by participating in your efforts, your sacrifices, and your good work to strengthen the construction and the homeland. This House will take the message of your ancestor Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, which was used by your grandfather Al-Husayn Ibn-'Ali, may his soul rest in peace, as a guide to achieving the goals of the great Arab revolt. We are confident our march will be a good one under your wise leadership and will turn this country into a beautiful garden with no harmful weeds that may distort its beauty or limit its scent so we can live in an earthly paradise within a wider heavenly paradise, which is prepared for the good people who bear a message of redemption. We beseech almighty God guide us and correct our conditions, correct our mistakes and preserve our country, a paradise defended by its loyal sons, sown with their sacrifices, watered with the blood of its martyrs and the sweat of its workers, and beautified with its children and young people, so we may live in an oasis of security and stability under your wise leadership. God's blessings be upon you.

Senate Response

JN0312203889 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1604 GMT 3 Dec 89

["Text" of the Senate's reply to King Husayn's speech from the throne on 27 November, delivered by Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi at the Royal Hashemite Court in Amman on 3 December—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Prayers and peace be upon our Prophet Muhammad, and upon his family and followers. Your Hashemite Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal, may God protect him; we are honored and pleased to submit to your lofty self verses of great appreciation and praise for the precious confidence you bestowed on the Senate members; of which we are proud; from which we draw the strength and resolve to shoulder the responsibility and deliver the trust; and which we receive with more love and loyalty to your great self, more belief in your wise leadership, more rallying around your dearest throne, and more enthusiasm to serve dear Jordan and the glorious Jordanian family.

Your Majesty, the Senate members have listened to the speech from the throne with ears and hearts. They found in it a pause for assessment and reflection, in which the wisdom of the pioneer leader who is loyal to himself and his people is demonstrated by his explaining the present and exploring the future. The Senate members also found in the speech a review of the work of your wise government and admirable directives—all this in a general framework that expands year after year to draw a shining picture about modern Jordan and its persistent growth.

The constitutional democratic march was reinforced by the resumption of parliamentary life after Jordan missed it for 2 decades because of extraordinary, pressing circumstances. Your majesty's decision to hold the general elections came as an outstanding event and a historic turning point, which your loyal people received with joy and applause as they could practice their rights and freedoms and discharge their responsibilities and obligations. A large number of candidates contested the elections, and the government placed no conditions or restraints; the candidates enjoyed absolute freedom to express their election slogans and programs. They held public debates with the masses, and these elections were won by those who won the confidence of the voters of the great Jordanian Arab people.

The Senate praises the Al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir government's handling of these general elections in a fair and effective manner in terms of organizing these elections, registering voters, and designating polling stations

in a accurate manner that allowed those who exercised their right to vote and those who had not exercised that right before, to reach the ballot box quickly and freely cast their votes. The votes were accurately counted with fairness and neutrality without violating the law or public order and without disturbing peace and tranquility.

All of Jordan won the election battle. The far and near vouched for the accuracy of organization and the fairness of implementation. This Jordanian experiment became an outstanding model and a living example, suitable to be followed in an age when peoples' demands grow for more popular effective participation and true democratic practice.

With the completion of the legislative power, the Senate vows to honestly and faithfully cooperate with the new House of Representatives on the one hand, and with the executive power on the other, to pass the proper legislation and monitor its correct implementation. We are a single team working with team spirit. No matter the different opinions and interpretations we have, we must in the end agree on the supreme common objective, and on the core of this free, firm objective to maintain the royal, parliamentary system, which we accepted for ourselves, which took us through the march of renaissance and progress, and for which we sacrifice our life. This objective is guided by adherence to the constitution and the persistent and patient endeavor to improve the homeland's standing, glory, and strength, and the endeavor to make its citizens happy and provide them with the blessings of security and honorable life and indications of modernization and civilization.

Your Majesty: Despite your majesty's government's preoccupation with the general elections and the financial and monetary crisis, it has not spared itself in providing public services and pursuing development projects and effecting administrative reforms—efforts that merit appreciation and praise. But here we will focus on two points:

First, the solid foundations and infrastructure built in Jordan that may be relied upon in the continuation of the beneficial march and from which we can proceed to take on crises and challenges. Concomittant with this process was a consensus on constants and pillars that underpin our march, led by adherence to national unity and the cohesiveness of the domestic front, and concern for internal and external national security. The Arab Army and public security agencies represent security and the fence of the homeland, and therefore ought to be supported and assured of their requirements for advanced weapons and equipment. No less important is the awareness of the citizens of their civic responsibility to look after the internal security and defense of the homeland.

Second, the unmistakable look to the future featured in the speech from the throne to which we attach great importance, including its accent on public freedoms, full humanitarian and political rights, independence of the judiciary, and continuous communication with private and popular bodies, and on encouraging intellectual and artistic innovation, exploring and exploiting energies, intensifying educational development, building dams—most importanlty the al-Wahdah Dam—developing agricultural production, encouraging industries, securing foodstuffs and medicines, encouraging consumer societies, launching the development and employment fund, boosting the national help fund, implementing the administrative reform program in a short time, taking an uncompromising stand on administrative indiscipline and financial corruption, combatting economic crime, and supporting inspection bodies and environmental protection.

These orientations were featured in the speech from the throne. They have the full support of the Senate, which will work in earnest to promote them in the form of studies and planning, subsequently enacting legislation needed to regulate their activities if this should prove necessary. As we look to the future, we are well advised to give the population growth the attention it deserves, as this rise will strain public services, especially in the areas of food, water, housing, and education. The dangers involved in unemployment in the ranks of the more educated sector should sound the alarm that the inherent dangers are not confined to robbing them of the opportunity to participate in the production process, but extend to inevitable frustrations, bitterness, and resentment. This warrants a restructuring of manpower and working to strike a balance between university courses, the needs of the community, and productive lines of work, lest the ranks of the unemployed further swell, and also to ensure the best use of manpower in the interest of the national economy.

Your Majesty: Regarding the nightmare of the financial and monetary crisis, the Senate would like to recall recommendations it made on 6 November 1986 under similar circumstances to deal with problems and inadequacies. At the time, it counseled increased agricultural, industrial, and touristic production, and the doubling of exports of goods and services, as well as rewarding producers and encouraging them to continue with their production, boosting the financial position of the treasury and the kingdom's reserves to safe levels, and addressing endemic, structural unemployment in the context of an integrated, well-defined program of readjustment and austerity with clear priorities. For the fulfilment of the program's aims and requirements, the agencies of local government and popular participation, as well as the information media, public opinion, and the hoped-for administrative streamlining, are to be mobilized, making sure performance is monitored, wrongdoers are called to account, clean government is maintained, and the right man is in the right place.

This preventive recommendation was made 3 years ago and at least 2 years before the crisis took place or became exacerbated. We believe the implementation of the readjustment and austerity program from a position of strength would have avoided or settled the crisis before it

had been excacerbated. Unfortunately, this recommendation was not taken into consideration, particularly the financial and monetary aspects.

We would like to affirm once again the usefulness of this recommendation so we can emerge from this crisis with firmness and strength and have it become a corrective national course. The major cause for the dinar's crisis, its devaluation, the weakening of its purchasing power, and the decline in the standard of living, has been the great depletion over the past years which has negatively affected the kingdom's official foreign currency reserves. This state of affairs has not been a coincidence. Ever-increasing public expenditures without any clear priorities have resulted in a growing deficit in the state's budget. This deficit used to be offset by loans from abroad in costly hard currencies and at the domestic level by borrowing from the Central Bank in dinars.

On the other hand, the unbridled consumption of goods and services, particularly imports, also largely has contributed to reduction of the kingdom's hard currency reserves at a time when revenues from these currencies have decreased and pressure on Jordan to repay these increasing loans and meet its basic needs became more insistent. Thus, the deficit in the state budget coupled with the great deficit in the balance of payments brought about great pressure on the dinar. Its purchasing power thus decreased at home and abroad.

The Senate thanks and appreciates your majesty's efforts to obtain the financial assistance that sister Arab countries have offered. These countries are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Qatar, and the Dubai Amirate. The Senate also offers additional thanks to these countries. We hope more assistance will be provided.

The Senate values your government's efforts to reschedule foreign debts, its emphasis on the independence of the Central Bank, and the way it squeezed expenditures and increased revenues. We also recommend adoption of the principle of a balanced budget as much as possible, checking luxurious and extravagant consumption, and keeping up productivity under the canopy of the government's enlightened control. Jordan's record of performance, growth, and affiliation will not stop with a political crisis, a military setback, or domestic disturbances. Thanks to the wisdom of the leader, the maturity of the people, and diligent and serious action, Jordan overcame such crises and firmly and strongly emerged from them. Jordan also will emerge from the current one: strong, with its head high, and untarnished, equipped with love for the homeland and its sons' loyalty. Every sacred grain of soil, every fresh breeze of freedom, every blessing of stability, and every well-earned livelihood is dear and cherished, and all are ready to offer sacrifices, and to be patient to preserve these blessings. They also are capable of increasing production. Production alone, and not dependence on others, or consumption, is the road to salvation.

Your Majesty, you have inherited the Great Arab Revolt's mission of freedom, unity, and a dignified life from father to son. Your faith in this immortal mission is entrenched deeply in your conscience. It also is a central pivot of Jordan's Arab policy, to which you are bound by the fact King Husayn Ibn-'Ali, may God bless his abode, and King 'Abdallah Ibn-al-Husayn, the martyr of al- Aqsa Mosque, may his soul rest in peace, are being held in trust in al-Aqsa Mosque.

From the premise of this central pivot, you have discharged Jordan's responsibility toward the al-Aqsa Mosque, Jerusalem, and the Palestinian cause. Jordan has assumed a large part of the burden of the dispersal of the Palestinian people and has shared with them their tribulations and suffering. Jordan also shared with them daily subsistence and responded to their command's demands of severing legal and administrative links with the West Bank. Jordan also supported the Palestinian people's right to freedom and self- determination. It recognized the State of Palestine immediately following its proclamation, and provided the great intifadah all kinds of moral and material support within the limits of its capabilities.

The Senate supports your majesty's stand on the Palestinian cause, which is characterized by deeply-rooted responsibility and constancy, and which cannot be disrupted by a political decision. The Jordanian people support your majesty's stand on this sacred cause as a partner in the Palestinian people's struggle to regain their legitimate rights in their usurped homeland. We are dutybound to pursue this support out of loyalty to the trust and out of commitment to the sacred pan-Arab duty.

Your majesty still is touring the globe convincing world leaders and politicians of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the sincere desire of the Palestinian leadership for a just and lasting peace. The PLO initiatives have exposed Israel's intransigence, aggression, and expansionist policies. So did the intifadah, which exposed the occupation's oppression and its brutal and inhumane practices. All this has created world public opinion supportive of an international conference to solve the problem and recognize the right of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state in their homeland and on their soil. Only the U.S. Administration is biased toward Israel when it is better for it to open its heart and mind to see what's right and to use its weight in favor of a just and lasting peace for the good of the region and the entire world.

Also proceeding from this pivot, Jordan supported fraternal Iraq in its battle to defend its freedom and its nation. The Senate praises Iraq's position, following its glorious victory, which calls for developing the cease-fire agreement into a just, honorable, and lasting peace between the two Muslim neighbors. It urges the new Iranian leaders respond to this honest and frank position so the two neighboring people can avoid the evil of a new threat of destructive war.

eding from this pivot, Jordan supported
Also proceedi he tripartite Arab committee to end the
efforts of the r, which brought tragic situations, disasters,
Lebanese war, tion, and which filled hearts with sorrow,
and destructio bitterness. Hence came the call upon our
agony, and bi others to cooperate with their elected presi-
Lebanese brot the bloodshed, end the tragedy, and open a
dent, to stop t the history of Lebanon —a page that will
new page in t ebanon back into an oasis of peace and
transform Leb a country for creativity and civilization.
security and a

framework of pan-Arab commitment and
Within the fr oals of unity and a better life, you showed
within the goa positions at the summit of reconciliation
well-known pc from which the Arab leaders emerged more
and accord, fr the need to unite Arab ranks and more
faithful to the ard joint Arab action on both inter-Arab and
inclined toward l relations. With your deep vision of the
international r ealized the importance of regional blocs and
future, you rea certed efforts in strengthening the status of
of their concer r states and achieving prosperity for their
their member regional outlook had been an obstacle in the
peoples. The ro unity, a futile hindrance to the free move-
road of Arab u gens and to the exchange of products neces-
ment of citizer eve Arab economic integration, and as a
sary to achiev the progress of population and reciprocal
burden on the
treatment.

l efforts toward unity culminated with estab-
Your blessed e the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC]. This
lishment of the d by establishment of the Arab Maghreb
was followed preceded by the launching of the Gulf Coop-
Union, and pre cil. The establishment of these councils gave
eration Council tum to the talk about the need to amend the
more momentu Charter so it can be the league's rostrum for
Arab League C es on fateful Arab issues and making Arab
uniting stances h the world more effective and useful. We
relations with efforts will be exerted to make these regional
hope sincere ef sitional steps toward a comprehensive Arab
councils transit pe God will grant the officials success in being
unity. We hope he plots of enemies aimed at making these
vigilant to the an alternative to comprehensive Arab unity.
regional axes a arries wide hopes and great challenges for
The ACC car ause it contains elements of strength and
Jordan. Becau he duty of Jordanian administrators in both
might, it is the d private sectors to dedicate themselves to
the public and council's goals and to study its requirements
achieving the c s of industry, agriculture, trade, tourism,
in the fields versities, and manpower training, with a view
banking, unive from this wide market through distinctive
to benefiting f and innovative production.
performance ar

Your Majesty, formulating the future is dependent totally on exploring the future by perfectly knowing the facts of the present, fixing objectives for the future, finding the appropriate available resources, and providing necessary resources to achieve these objectives, in part or full.

Since building the future depends on the level of popular participation and democratic practice, the Senate welcomes forming a national charter, which defines the meaning of affiliation and growth, fixes priorities and choices, and draws the means and methods for implementation, and which therefore will form a general canopy for unity of the objective together with pluralism and for party organizations and the major common grounds among them.

This charter must be derived from the constitution because the charter is not an alternative or an amendment to the constitution. The charter is not a permanent law to substitute the fixed constitutional steps. It is a general framework for the principles and values on one hand, and for general guidelines of the policies and programs on the other. If the charter receives the majority of votes in a plebiscite, and if party programs and activities are based on it, then these activities and programs will be more credible and closer to the people's desires and aspirations. After that, the public and private sector organizations constitutionally will remain accountable for, and subjected to, supervision of the legislative power and its assessment and direction of implementation.

Your Majesty, one of God's blessing on this patient, steadfast country is you are the grandson of the messenger of God and holder of the banner of Great Islam, our Arab Prophet Muhammad, may God's blessings be upon him. At the same time, you are the grandson of the Arab revolutionary, Husayn Ibn-'Ali, the inheritor of the message of Islam and the advocate of Arab unity, freedom, and better life. In you, members of the [Prophet Muhammad] household, the Islamic doctrine is embodied, just as the principles of our pan-Arab existence are embodied. At your throne, this doctrine and these principles are in harmony and are united in your Arab-Islamic message, which the Hashemites have carried throughout their long history.

May God give you success, guide your steps, and grant you support so you will remain as you always have been for us—a loyal and strong king and leader. May God's blessings be upon you.

Al-Hirawi Discusses Postponement of 'Action'

NC0112180989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi stressed in an interview with the BBC that he has not ask for assistance from any foreign troops. President al-Hirawi reiterated his determination to avoid bloodshed, but he warned that unless the president's authority is recognized, decisive measures will be taken.

He noted that at the request of a number of countries, he has agreed to postpone taking any action, but only for a limited period of time.

Al-Hirawi Promises Army Will Quell Rebellion

NC0112192889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] The REUTER news agency tonight quoted Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi as saying that he will use only Lebanese soldiers to end General Michel 'Awn's control of the eastern sector of Beirut. The president affirmed that there can be no authority except the authority of legitimacy, and that the unity of Lebanon's territory, people, and institutions is the guarantee for the survival of Lebanon and for the resumption of its role in the Arab region and the world.

The agency carried an interview which President al-Hirawi gave to the BBC in which he said that the Lebanese army will quell the rebellion. This is what happens in any democratic state when a rebellion takes place against the state.

The president added: With regard to requesting the assistance of non-Lebanese forces, I think, and even affirm, that this will not happen.

The president revealed that he has agreed with several states that contacted him to postpone the attack for a short time to give a chance to mediation efforts. President al-Hirawi said: Had there not been innocent people, we would have quelled the rebellion and ended the story.

Al-Hirawi Asks Foreign Powers To Pressure 'Awn

NC0112201489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Lebanese governmental sources have disclosed that President Ilyas al-Hirawi has sent three messages through the diplomatic channels to U.S President George Bush, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, and French President Francois Mitterrand. In the messages, Al-Hirawi asks the three leaders to put pressure on General Michel 'Awn to leave the Presidential Palace.

Al-Hirawi Threatens To Take 'Decisive Measures'

NC0212081189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Delaying a decision to take measures to oust General Michel 'Awn from the presidential palace does not preclude resorting to all means available to the legitimate authority to impose control over all Lebanese territory, President Ilyas al-Hirawi emphasized in an interview with the BBC. He said: In declared and undeclared contacts with all friendly and fraternal states, I have been asked to exercise much deliberation before taking decisive steps against those rebelling against legitimacy. I strongly believe that this period should not be long and that it should be limited, so that it will not pose a danger to the unity of the country and create a gap that could lead to partition.

President al-Hirawi added that it may be necessary to use force if the mediation endeavors fail to persuade 'Awn to abandon his stand. However, he pointed out that any such operation will be undertaken by Lebanese, not Syrian, forces.

The president reiterated that he wants to avoid bloodshed, but he warned that decisive measures will be taken if 'Awn refuses to recognize the authority of the president of the republic. He added: Had there been no innocent people around 'Awn, we would have quelled the rebellion and ended the story.

President al-Hirawi concluded by saying: If 'Awn steps down from his post, he would be free to continue his activity by forming a political party.

Al-Hirawi Postpones Attack for 48 Hours

NC0212181389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] REUTER tonight cited various political sources in West and East Beirut as saying that they believe that President of the Republic Ilyas al-Hirawi has postponed for 48 hours the attack which he has said will be launched on the B'abda Palace.

REUTER also reported that the Lebanese forces sources doubt that mediation efforts undertaken by foreign countries and the Christian church would succeed.

Al-Hirawi on Military Action Against B'abda

NC0212203789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] French newspaper LE MONDE today cited President Ilyas al-Hirawi as saying that General 'Awn's insistence on staying in the B'abda palace will force him to make decisions which the new army commander will have to carry out.

Al-Hirawi added that he told all ambassadors and mediators that there will be no military action against Beirut's eastern area. He added, however, that he will be forced

to take military action against the B'abda Palace if ongoing contacts produce no result.

Sources Disclose Syrian Plan To Storm B'abda

JN0112210189 Baghdad INA in English 1730 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Beirut, Dec. 1, INA—Lebanese military sources disclosed details of a Syrian military operation to take over the presidential palace at B'abda to dislodge premier of the interim government Gen. Michel 'Awn.

The sources said that the Syrian military operation was entrusted to 39,450 soldiers to carry out the occupation of the palace through a multi-axes battle. The sources further said that the plan is centered on opening side battles to press and preoccupy the Lebanese forces by Syrian units attached to the 14th Division which are supported by 150 tanks. This division, according to the sources, were entitled only to accomplish storming operations against any direct threat to the Syrian regime. The Syrian plan views a possible involvement of the Syrian Air Force at a probable stage of the attacking operation, the sources pointed out.

'Awn Forces Reportedly Flee Eastern Area

NC0212080189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] According to reports from the eastern area, the situation of Michel 'Awn's forces is deteriorating. Several army officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers have joined the forces under Army Commander General Emile Lahhud. According to the same reports, clashes took place between 'Awn's forces and some of the soldiers who tried to flee the eastern area, some of whom were taken to hospitals.

The same reports linked the shortage of tank ammunition from which 'Awn's cliques are suffering to 'Awn's contacts with the agent militia's commander, Antoine Lahd, to obtain a quantity of this ammunition from Israel.

3 Wounded by Anti-Aircraft Fire Above B'abda

NC0212135589 Paris AFP in English 1340 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Beirut, Dec 2 (AFP)—Three people were wounded Saturday by anti-aircraft fire aimed above the B'abda Palace, which President Ilyas al-Hurawi has threatened to take by force from Christian leader Michel 'Awn, army sources said.

They said the fire was aimed at a Lebanese army helicopter overflying the area around the palace and hit a section of a crowd of some 10,000 of General 'Awn's supporters who had gathered in response to Mr. al-Hurawi's threat.

The helicopter was part of Gen. 'Awn's forces but the source of the attack—the first aimed at the B'abda Palace area since the general's supporters began their vigil Monday night—was not immediately clear.

Witnesses said the incident caused a brief moment of panic which was quickly contained.

Mr. al-Hurawi last Sunday threatened to take B'abda by force unless Gen. 'Awn recognized the president's election November 24 and the "national unity" government formed a day later under a Syrian- backed Arab peace plan.

In remarks published by the Beirut press Saturday, the president said he would have already launched an attack if the general's supporters had not been surrounding the palace in the southeastern suburbs of Beirut.

He vowed to use units of the Lebanese army to oust Gen. 'Awn, although military experts have said that he would need the assistance of Syrian troops.

Witness reports of a Syrian build-up in recent days along lines facing B'abda have heightened fears of a military confrontation.

Gen. 'Awn opposes the Arab plan for failing to call for a Syrian pullout and has dimissed Mr. al-Hurawi's election by MPs as "anti- constitutional."

Junblatt Calls for Solution Within '1 Week'

NC0312151789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt has warned against the grave consequences of the isolationist and partitionist scheme. Junblatt recalled that martyr Kamal Junblatt had warned in 1976 of the grave consequences of that scheme for Lebanon and even for the unity of those Arab countries whose borders were defined after the Sykes-Picot Agreement. Today, on 3 December 1989, we repeat what Kamal Junblatt said, he stated. We may even say that there is a historic chance to restore Lebanese unity and thus avert partition in Lebanon and other Arab countries. We say this because we see the situation getting precariously close to partition, he declared.

He added: We will not be satisfied with what used to happen under the [previous] Al-Huss government; that is, statements of condemnation were issued from time to time while accommodation [al-musayarah] with Michel 'Awn continued. We should make it clear that accommodation leads to partition. If the new government intends to accommodate, this will mean that partition is imminent. If the problem of Michel 'Awn and the mutinous clique is not resolved within 1 week, politically or militarily, then this government will turn into a new tower of Babel, as was the previous government, and partition—with all its attendant evils—will be a fact.

As for the government's plan to confront 'Awn, Junblatt said: During the first session of the current government, we said that time is not on our side. He who killed Rene Mu'awwad may kill Ilyas al-Hirawi and all who oppose partition. Therefore, the ball is in the court of Al-Hirawi, Al-Huss, and the newcomers who have joined us. But before we assess other people's positions we should assess our own.

Junblatt added: The military option is not the only one. If a clear decision to isolate 'Awn politically and economically is made and implemented in earnest, it will be possible to bring him down even if he has an economic stockpile to draw upon. Let the military option then be the last resort.

Concerning the current position of East Beirut Christians, Junblatt said: I do not think that anyone in East Beirut wants to fall back into the whirlwind of violence. I do not think that any reasonable person would want this to happen, knowing how perilous that could be for the whole area and for the interests of Christians in Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. However, we should recall that Israel and those who support Israel want to create a Christian mini-state in Jabal Lubnan regardless of the possible damage to the interests of Christians in the Arab world. It is unthinkable that everyone in the Christian community could have lost his sense of reality.

Junblatt was asked: Is the al-Ta'if agreement no longer valid? He replied by saying: To some extent. But, if we unite the country later on, the al-Ta'if agreement will be applied. We cannot apply that agreement unilaterally. The al-Ta'if agreement will either serve as a prelude to the unification of the homeland or a bridge for partition.

Junblatt commented on the position of the Vatican, [the Maronite Patriarchate in] Bkirki, and France by saying: It seems that the Vatican, Bkirki, and France are in favor of the establishment of the Christian mini-state in Lebanon, which is quite irresponsible. It also seems the pope thinks that Lebanon is another Poland, but let us tell him that this is not the case. In Poland, the communist regime is being replaced for objective reasons. However, in Lebanon and the Arab world, there is no democratic change under way, only sectarian and communal wars. It is in this context that the Vatican and Bkirki want to manipulate Lebanon. [passage omitted]

'Awn Prefers 'Honorable Defeat' to Capitulation

PM0112120389 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Nov 89 p 3

[Interview with General Michel 'Awn, head of the military government in Lebanon, by Ghassan Shirbil in B'abda; date not given]

[Text] [Shirbil] General, I know how critical these hours are but I hope you will have the patience to tolerate some annoying questions.

['Awn] No question annoys or embarrasses me. I like frankness and clarity in questions and answers. There is no need to begin the dialogue in a karate atmosphere. Exaggeration is an old game and threats, however serious, must not weaken our will.

[Shirbil] Are you afraid?

['Awn] (Smiling) No. The first prerequisite for any official or leader is to overcome fear if he is to be able to make decisions. We did that when we decided to resist the attempt to impose a fait accompli on Lebanon. Once a leader begins his calculations with fear for his own safety, he has already lost the battle.

[Shirbil] Actually I wanted to ask if you go to sleep with a pistol under your pillow.

['Awn] No worry, and no pistol. You are asking me about the fear of assassination. Is that not so?

[Shirbil] Yes, because I have heard many people say that the only way out of the present situation is your assassination.

['Awn] That is nothing new. They have been trying to assassinate me for months. There have been attempts to booby-trap cars, and the whole world knows about the Cyprus story. They think that my elimination would silence the calls for the things I call for. I am trying to prevent them from assassinating me.

[Shirbil] How?

['Awn] That I will not tell you. It is a secret, but it would be very difficult to get to me.

[Shirbil] You talk about assassination as if it is something that necessarily comes from outside.

['Awn] How would you portray it?

[Shirbil] It could be someone very close.

['Awn] Such as?

[Shirbil] Such as, for example: You could convene a meeting of army officers, similar to the meetings you usually hold, and suddenly one of them would stand up and shoot you out of enmity or just as a way out of a desperate situation.

['Awn] You like scenarios. That will never happen. No soldier or officer would ever do that.

[Shirbil] What if one did?

['Awn] The gun would fall from his hand the second our eyes met. You can write that Gen 'Awn will not be assassinated, but one of those standing behind the general could be killed after being hit in the back.

[Shirbil] Have we entered the phase of foretelling the future?

[*Awn] You have a right to publish or not publish, but that is my answer to your question. Why all these personal questions and no questions about the political situation?

[Shirbil] I am basically interested in the fate of generals.

[*Awn] Fine, but there should be no generalization in such cases.

[Shirbil] General, do you consider stepping down?

[*Awn] That is out of the question. I will step down only if the people say that they do not want me. Aside from that, stepping down does not enter into my calculations.

[Shirbil] What if a coup occurred?

[*Awn] Where?

[Shirbil] In the army which has fought under your command.

[*Awn] That will never happen.

[Shirbil] Why this complete confidence?

[*Awn] Because I know the military and they know me. I may not be the right party to answer this question. Go to army positions and camps and, after your tour, let me know the answer.

[Shirbil] Generals usually try to end wars in the manner they dream of or wish for, but when they do not succeed they end their own lives. Have you ever considered suicide even for one moment?

[*Awn] (Laughing) The generals you are talking about perhaps lost their faith in their own peoples or could not grasp the true history of their peoples. I am not one of them. I am one of the military people who fight to the end.

[Shirbil] It seems to be an unequal battle. What would you do if tanks tried to storm the palace?

[*Awn] I would do what any military commander would in such a case, and that is be at the forefront, leading the troops and the people.

[Shirbil] Do you have an alternative plan?

[*Awn] Only the wretched do not consider alternatives.

[Shirbil] It has been claimed that you have not helped those who have tried to find a way out for you.

[*Awn] I have not sought a way out and I do not think about myself. I have called for everyone's withdrawal, every non-Lebanese. I have called for fulfillment of provisions in the Arab League and UN charters.

[Shirbil] Do you not feel isolated at present?

[*Awn] No. Perhaps your conscience is in isolation. They want to silence us and close the file at our expense.

[Shirbil] But the world does not support you.

[*Awn] I am satisfied with the definition of attitudes. I base my calculations on firm figures.

[Shirbil] Why do you not accept what has been agreed upon, or why have you not moved to a position of popular opposition?

[*Awn] The game is not democratic. Attemps are being made to terminate Lebanese decisionmaking and independence. Therefore no one can retire or abandon his command.

[Shirbil] But the accord government...

[*Awn] (Interrupting) There will be no accord government, only a local council.

[Shirbil] It has also been claimed that you wasted an opportunity for a De Gaullean way out.

[*Awn] How?

[Shirbil] By, for example, addressing the nation and saying that you did what you thought was right and that the politicians decided something different, and announcing that you would go home and that you would be at the service of the republic when it needs or summons you.

[*Awn] I have already told you that I am not looking for a way out. It is others who have a crisis because they are trying to falsify history and to forge wills. I am on the right track. I may lose, but I am defending a just cause. I will not lose through a signature. Furthermore, let me ask who will take historical responsibility and who will cover it up. Those making statements today would see what a state they would be in if I lost.

[Shirbil] You have been accused of introducing a coupist conduct into the military establishment and of trying to rely on some kind of popular legitimacy.

[*Awn] For the first time since the birth of this state, which the politicians have mismanaged, there is cohesion between the authority and the people. This is not a coup. The coupist line is the line that favors an authority which accepts the presence of non-Lebanese armies in Lebanon.

[Shirbil] But they are saying that they would settle the battle.

[*Awn] Let them try.

[Shirbil] What about the fate of the people?

[*Awn] We may lose, but we will not capitulate. Honorable defeat is better.

Michel 'Awn Calls for Referendum or Elections

NC0112181789 Paris AFP in English 1803 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Paris, Dec 1 (AFP)—Lebanese Christian military leader Michel 'Awn said Friday that a referendum or parliamentary elections could help ease tension in the country at home.

Speaking in a radio interview, General 'Awn accused the current chamber of deputies of being a "committee of dictators."

He told the French radio France Inter that the referendum or elections should be held under the supervision of the United Nations and could take place with the help of France.

"If the world wants to help, this could be a solution," said Gen. 'Awn.

Lebanon's 99-seat parliament, which has 71 surviving MPs, has been in place since 1972.

Gen. 'Awn, who last month declared the dissolution of parliament, does not recognise Lebanon's new head of state Ilyas al-Hirawi, elected last Friday by Lebanese MPs to replace slain president Rene Mu'awwad, elected on November 5.

Both men were MPs.

The embattled Christian leader said that both Mr. al-Hirawi and Mr. Mu'awwad's elections were "anti-constitutional" because they took place in Syrian-controlled territory.

He has also refused to heed a presidential decree removing him as head of the Lebanese armed forces, and said he alone represented any legal authority in Lebanon.

Since Sunday several thousand supporters of the general have camped outside his heaquarters at the bombed presidential palace southeast of Beirut to "protect" him against any possible attack to oust him from there.

Mr. al-Hirawi had threatened to use force against Gen. 'Awn and witnesses in Beirut spoke of a Syrian military built-up around 'Awn-held territory east and north of the Lebanese capital.

'Awn Says Americans 'Not Welcome' in Lebanon

NC0312192189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has ruled out the possibility that any military developments might occur in Lebanon after the Bush-Gorbachev summit, because, after their summit, neither of them wants any developments that would exacerbate the situation in any part of the world. Furthermore, Gen 'Awn added, the two superpowers will not allow a country which took part in the formulation of the UN Charter to be attacked.

In an interview with France Inter radio, Gen 'Awn emphasized that he has never rejected presidential elections, but that he wants free elections, not just the designation of a president under occupation. He reiterated his proposal for a referendum in Lebanon on the formula of a solution for the holding of elections under international auspices.

In response to a question, Gen 'Awn said: I do not only represent the Christians or a faction of them. I represent all the Lebanese who aspire to see their country as a sovereign, independent state.

Asked if the Americans are asking the Syrians to get rid of him, Gen 'Awn said: It seems so from their statements. The Americans are currently not welcome in Lebanon because they have violated all diplomatic norms, and also because they have interfered in domestic affairs. Therefore, we cannot accept their advice.

Answering a question about the Arab initiative, Gen 'Awn said that the Arab League failed to provide the right conditions for ensuring the necessary success of its initiative, and did not take into consideration our remarks to Ibrahimi. They imposed a solution on Lebanon that has been rejected by the majority of the people.

Jean-Francois Deniau, deputy chairman of the French National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee, who took part in the dialogue with France Inter, stressed the need for ending tension and for starting a dialogue to achieve a solution. He said that Gen 'Awn wants to achieve a solution, and enjoys broad popular support. He underlined the importance of restoring peace to the Lebanese and ending the threats. He noted that 'Awn's proposal regarding a referendum is a good idea. Such a referendum, he said, needs international supervision, and the French could participate.

'Awn Denies 'Secret Contacts' With Syria

NC0412064789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has stated that the Arab League did not provide the suitable conditions to ensure the success of its initiative and failed to take into account his remarks to Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahim. He added that they had imposed a solution on Lebanon that was rejected by the majority of the people.

Gen 'Awn categorically denied that he had held secret contacts with Syrian authorities. In an interview published by the Paris-based FRANCE-SOIR paper, Gen 'Awn affirmed that in the event of a Syrian attack against the B'abda Palace, he would use all means of defense. He disclosed that 4,000 new volunteers have joined his forces and said that he could recruit 80,000 more. He noted that almost all Muslims support him, because they want the Syrians to leave. He added: Hizballah is the only problem, but it is one that goes far beyond Lebanon's borders.

In an interview with LIBERATION published today, Gen 'Awn said he totally rejects any partition of Lebanon and asked that the al-Ta'if agreement be reconsidered.

Ja'ja' Announces 2-Day Hold on Military Action

NC0112160989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] In an interview with AFP, [Lebanese Forces Commander] Dr Samir Ja'ja' said:

I can say that there will be no military action during the next 48 hours. All this has been the result of the steadfastness of our military forces and the popular moves which expressed their rejection of the concept using military power to conquer the eastern area. We can add to this the domestic and international political activity.

I believe that we should utilize this truce to enhance our domestic steadfastness at the military and popular levels. On the other hand, we should open a crack in the blocked political horizon. I believe that coming out of this predicament is possible by seeking a political way out.

As Lebanese Forces, and though we insist and urge all the parties concerned to seek a political way out of the present crisis, we reiterate our solid stand that we will face any attempt to conquer the liberated areas, regardless of the sacrifices, the conditions, and the difficulties.

Hopes for Further Deferment

NC0112135089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' today continued his meetings at the Lebanese Forces headquarters with delegations and demonstrators who voiced support for his stand. [passage omitted]

Dr Ja'ja' also received a delegation representing the Voice of Lebanon, led by Director General Shaykh Simon al-Khazin. Following the meeting, Chief Editor Ilyas Karam said: At critical times, like these we are going through, we make it a habit to visit leading figures. There is nothing strange about the fact that we are paying this visit to the doctor today with the future of Lebanon on our minds. After this visit, he added, we will be full of hope and reassurance.

Responding to questions by our correspondents, Dr Ja'ja' said:

[Begin Ja'ja' recording] It is a happy occasion, this meeting with the persons in charge of the Voice of Lebanon. The Voice of Lebanon is a media platform which has been following the Lebanese cause for 15 years.

I would like to wish you all good health and success, and I hope you will remain as you have always been—devoted to the cause at this specific stage. It is our duty to prepare ourselves to defend our areas with all available power and resources.

In this context, I would like to say that all the moves that have taken place in the eastern area since the beginning of the week have indeed borne fruit, albeit partially. Today we can say that the international community is being patient. It opposes any military action against the eastern areas. Even if this continues for a short while, we can say that we were able to catch our breath and experience relief for 1, 2, 3, or 4 days, pending further developments.

Since we have succeeded in deferring military action, even for a few days, we hope God will help us defer such action for longer periods, if not rule it out completely, through continuous political action and contacts. I hope you will be reassured and will reassure all the citizens on my behalf, at least during these 3 to 4 days, until we see what we will do later. [end recording]

Ja'ja' Addresses Delegations on War, Options

NC0312162589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Addressing delegations from al-Kurah this afternoon, Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' said: The march began in al-Kurah and has reached al-Karantina. Al-Kurah is our home and we will return to it in the near future. Armed with this willpower, vigilance, knowledge, determination, flexibility, and openness we will be able to overcome all difficulties and confront all tasks. Militarily, we are getting ready for any confrontation that may take place, and politically, preparations are under way to avert this confrontation.

In a statement to a delegation from the Lebanese University, Dr Ja'ja' emphasized: We will overcome the enormous difficulties that are obstructing our road. We must prepare ourselves at all levels to confront the zero hour. Of course, it would be better if we succeeded in averting this hour. But if it comes the results will certainly not go in favor of anyone else.

Addressing delegations from Harajil and Haqil, Dr Ja'ja' said: We must take it upon ourselves to build a homeland where our sons are not killed at random. We must put an end to this hellish cycle and make our calculations for the future to build the homeland we want. I will be in the forefront in war and in peace to liberate every village and regain what we have lost.

Minister Rizq Blames 'Awn, Mizhir for Attack

NC0312070089 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Minister Edmond Rizq's house in Jazzin came under attack at 1800 last night. A number of rooms in the house were destroyed. Nicola Mizhir, an officer in General Michel 'Awn's army, and a number of his men threw explosive devices at the house of Minister Rizq.

Commenting on the attack, Minister Rizq told AFP that it was instigated by 'Awn and carried out by Nicola Mizhir, 'Awn's intelligence officer in Jazzin. Minister

Rizq held rebel 'Awn and his intelligence service responsible for any disturbance to Jazzin's security. He emphasized that he will continue with the peace process, reconciliation, and accord.

Minister Rizq's Motorcade Comes Under Fire

NC0312124789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] According to reports from the south, gunmen fired at the motorcade of Justice and Information Minister Edmond Rizq at the entrance to Jazzin this morning. The gunmen detained a number of bodyguards but there were no casualties. Minister Rizq reached his home where security measures were taken after gunfire was heard in the area.

Attack on Motorcade Denied

NC0312184189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] An informed source in Jazzin has denied that the motorcade of Information and Justice Minister Edmond Rizq came under fire, or was subjected to any harassment in Jazzin. The source explained that some shots were fired in the air by security men outside Rizq's house to clear the way and facilitate the movement of the motorcade.

Officials Reportedly Dismissed for 'Corruption'

JN0312113589 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] It was learned in Damascus that 49 Syrian officials accused of corruption, abuse of office, and mismanagement have been expelled from a number of companies and from the Ministries of Agriculture, Supply, Transportation, and Oil.

More than 1,000 officials already had been referred to the courts within a campaign by the Syrian authorities to reform the country's economy.

Commentaries View Developing Situation in Lebanon

No 'Compromises'

JN0212153989 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1235 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: A dispassionate, impartial analysis of the Lebanese crisis since it erupted 14 years ago is bound to produce unassailable facts. The roots and ramifications of the crisis are real enough, but the barriers to a solution throughout have been contrived and foreign-inspired, so the Lebanese are blameless. They are not to be held responsible for 14 years of devastation, killings, and anxiety which have cast their shadow over the country.

While certain quarters have found in the Lebanese crisis outlets serving as distractions from their own crises, others have used it to advance selfish, old interests and to consolidate other more recent ones. It is to further the latter that the Zionists wormed their way into Lebanon and established themselves in the Lebanese arena with the help of local stooges. The same goes for the penetration of the Iraqi regime of Saddam, whose deep-seated grudges led it to unashamedly align itself with Israel against Syria—the deadliest enemy of both. Hence, the strange, inconsistent, and contradictory stands taken by certain world powers. These postures only can be explained in the context of a strategy to keep Lebanon and the Lebanese in the maelstrom—powerless to extricate themselves other than by clutching to the imperialist octopus, whose arms once reached numerous spots around the world, including our region and Lebanon.

The Lebanese crisis only is one among many around the world. One way or another, most of the trouble spots around the world have been dissolved. The question is why, of all flashpoints, the Lebanese crisis seems to have defied all attempts at a solution. The al-Ta'if agreement offered the Lebanese a ray of a hope that, at last, salvation was at hand. They can afford to be sanguine: The country now has an elected, constitutionally-installed president and government representative of all the Lebanese and ceaselessly is working to bring back stability and peace. The legality, the credentials, and good faith of the Lebanese president and his government have proved impregnable to the attacks of all skeptics. Why is it then that obstacles are placed before the president and his government and that insubordination to the legitimate authorities is encouraged? Whose interests thus are served? Certainly not Lebanon's. During the past 14 years, it has become absolutely clear Syria never has been a party in the Lebanese conflict. Since Syria's help was sought by the legitimate Lebanese president and prime minister and by the Lebanese people, it never has taken the side of one party against another. Syria throughout has been consistently farsighted and restrained in the interest of safeguarding Lebanon's territorial integrity, national unity, security, and Arab identity. But others have wanted Lebanon to be a crack in the wall of Arab steadfastness. They have wanted for it to be so many feuding, shaky entities to support the arguments for the existence and expansionism of the Zionist enemy.

A divided, fragmented, and bloodied Lebanon constitutes a threat to Syria and the security and future of the Arabs. It follows there should be no compromises. With the election of a president and installation of a government, Lebanon scored a victory. Efforts now must be pursued to translate into practical realities the will and dreams of the Lebanese people. Any obstacle that stands in the way must be cleared, especially since such an impediment is contrived, artificial, and foreign-inspired and as such has no indigenous roots, save for a handful of neurotic, adventurous, and sick half-pints.

Delay in 'Awn Removal 'Dangerous'

JN0112160089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, there is a lack of balance in statements being made by some international circles on the developments expected in Lebanon in light of the continuous rebellion against legitimacy, a rebellion represented by Michel 'Awn. Voicing support for the legitimate authority represented by President Ilyas al-Hirawi, these statements urge so-called self-restraint and avoidance of force and violence to deal with the rebellion, while at the same time failing to refer to any other way to end the current crisis. Self-restraint is in fact exercised by Lebanon's legitimate government; resorting to force also is completely avoided. Yesterday, the legitimate government reaffirmed this point when President al-Hirawi announced he did not want to see any more bloodshed in Lebanon.

But will self-restraint constitute a policy or a remedy for the rebellion? Are the statements supporting the legitimate government of national accord, as well as condemning the rebels, sufficient to put an end to the abnormal situation preventing the legitimate authority from extending over all of Lebanon and preventing this authority from performing the duties stipulated in the al-Ta'if agreement? Rebel General 'Awn still is

attempting to wrest legitimacy away from the national accord government and also is announcing his rejection of the al-Ta'if agreement, from which this government derives its direction. 'Awn's practices are a threat not only to this government, but also to Lebanon's unity and institutions, foremost of which is the Army.

As the statements being made by these international circles urge self-restraint and patience, we can ask: What are they demanding from 'Awn in return? Moreover, 'Awn may view the behavior of some of these circles as encouragement to persist in his intransigence and departure from legitimacy. What is needed is not only advice to the legitimate government to continue the policy of self-restraint, but also for pressure to be applied to those who are trying to destroy legitimacy. By means of this pressure, peace and accord may be restored to Lebanon.

Time is important, and any further delay in dealing with the rebellion will further complicate the situation and make it more dangerous. Several parties, especially Israel, want to exploit this situation to partition and fragment Lebanon and defeat all efforts to restore accord in Lebanon and unite Lebanon's territories and people. Therefore, whoever wants the national accord government to carry out its duties should use all his influence in the right direction to remove the obstacle preventing the spread of full legitimacy over the country. If these circles have no weight to help the national accord government eradicate rebellion, what is the purpose and the use of urging the Lebanese Goverment not to use its legitimate and constitutional options to save Lebanon from the rebel general?

This is a big question that raises many doubts about the call for self-restraint, while at the same time leaving 'Awn to continue his rampage and tampering with Lebanon's fate.

Papers on 'Awn, French Visit

JN0312093289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "'Awn is a Manifestation of Zionist Influence and its Removal is an Arab Responsibility," the newspaper AL-BA'TH affirms in its editorial today that the status of Michel 'Awn in Lebanon no longer is an individual case concerning a mere mutinous officer. The paper adds: No, the situation, according to available and publicized information, indicates 'Awn represents a manifestation of serious Zionist influence targeting the present and future of the Arab nation, and not only Lebanon.

The paper goes on to say: Besides, there is another status that seems to complement this manifestation of Zionist influence in Lebanon. The reference here is to the flagrant and suspect interference in internal Lebanese affairs by some French deputies. This dangerous precedent certainly will have negative future repercussions, considering it reflects a defiance of and disdain for the Arab and international consensus which blessed, supported, and backed the al-Ta'if agreement and the ensuing installment of a legitimate authority in Lebanon.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH, says: We, like others who follow up regional developments in general and Lebanese developments in particular, are well aware numerous attempts have been made and continue to be made to circumvent the al-Ta'if document. The most painful of these attempts resulted in the assassination of martyred President Rene Mu'awwad. We would at the same time, however, like to point out the entire Arab nation is called upon to take a firm and decisive stand to abort these wicked attempts and to work seriously to obliterate the Zionist influence represented by 'Awn. Only this will enable us to save Lebanon and save ourselves, as Arabs, from a grand conspiracy.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH tackles the same issue in its editorial and indicates he who supports the accord document and declares his commitment to Lebanon's unity cannot blame the legitimate Lebanese authority for hastening to impose its legitimate control on the entire Lebanese soil. Likewise, he cannot call for showing reluctance and hesitation in working to end the anomalous situation and for canceling the roles of rebels.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Such stands only can be construed as positions that serve the interests of the enemies of Lebanon, who seek to keep it hostage in the hands of rebels. Sweet words will fail to make these stands, and those espousing them more acceptable. These stands never can be called patriotic. They are doomed to failure sooner or later.

In one of its commentaries, the newspaper TISHRIN also tackles developments in the Lebanese arena and affirms that loyalty to the legitimate authority is allegiance to the homeland and that Lebanon, which has laid the groundwork for ending its crisis and also for removing the causes of infighting and opened the door for a real solution, cannot be deterred by a rebel, an adventurer, or a gambler.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: He who opposes the Arab and international consensus, and first and foremost the Lebanese consensus, is placing himself in the position of a forsaken individual. Such a person actually is creating an abnormal situation which must be uprooted in accordance with the way deemed appropriate and suitable by the legitimate Lebanese authority; as the homeland, its territorial integrity, its security and stability are above all. Moreover, he who places his selfish interests above the interests of the homeland is doomed to fall, fail, and to end up in the world of oblivion.

French Deputies' Beirut Visit 'Cheap' Ploy

JN0312155189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, what we are witnessing these days with the arrival of French opposition deputies in the area under the hegemony of those who rebelled against legitimacy in Lebanon with the purpose of securing what these parliamentarians called a permanent presence on the side of those rebels, brings to mind more than a paradox and raises more than one question. The most prominent of these paradoxes is that the deputies, who represent part of the opposition and derive legitimacy from that of the institution through which they seek to achieve their party program, have chosen to side with a person who resists legitimacy and refuses to submit to its constitutional institutions in Lebanon, and have decided to encourage him to continue to violate that legitimacy.

Is not there a contradiction here in the actions of individuals who observe the limits set up for their activities within a legitimate and constitutional framework, but encourage and back all things contrary to this in another country? Is this the democracy and the democratic principles the French people brag about and whose concepts and values—their bicentennial—they celebrated only few months ago? Is this what is desired? For this democracy to become the example to be followed in other countries of the world?

It therefore is clear the French opposition parliamentarians have not come to Michel 'Awn's den to market the principles of French democracy, by means of which they had the honor to represent their electorate in the French parliament. Rather, the objective is very far from this. These parliamentarians came to East Beirut only for cheap election reasons; they think it will make them win extra votes from the French electorate in the future at the expense of the parties now forming the government. Their only objective is to arouse and abuse some of the feeling of sympathy left over among the French from the time of the mandate for a certain sect in Lebanon, and to portray the rebel—not only against legitimacy in Lebanon, but against a majority of the same sect—as the sect's true representative.

Therefore, the question for these deputies is no more than an electoral ploy which employs the state of rebellion, represented by 'Awn, to stir up the feelings of some French people on the one hand, and to pressure the French Government on the other. There will be a real problem if the French Government finds no alternative but to respond to the pressure and go along with the opposition. As a result of this, Lebanon, its destiny and the future of its people, will become a piece of paper in French ballot boxes and will enter the market of political bargaining between the government and the opposition. This without any thought for the suffering, misfortunes, and catastrophes that might affect Lebanon and the Lebanese. It is no secret the French opposition's dispatch of one delegation after another to East Beirut aims to increase pressure on the French Government and to draw it into such a ploy.

Michel 'Awn has transformed the bodies of citizens in East Beirut into human sandbags behind which he hides in his den in B'abda. The French opposition now is seeking to barricade itself behind a phony cause for a general who rebelled against legitimacy and against the sect which he claims to represent. It does so not for the sake of Lebanon and its health and sovereignty, nor for the sake of sparing it bloodshed or for other false slogans that it propounds, but for the sake of a handful of votes that could take it to office; afterward, the deluge for Lebanon.

Soviet Air Defense Forces Commander Visits

JN0412084089 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, received in his office this evening the Soviet military delegation led by Army General Comrade Ivan Tret'yak, commander in chief of the Soviet Air Defense Forces. The meeting was attended by the commander of the Air Force and Air Defense and the Soviet ambassador in Damascus.

The talks dealt with the common relations between the two friendly countries and ways to develop and reinforce them in the interest of the two countries.

The friendly Soviet military delegation arrived at Damascus International Airport at noon today on a visit of several days to Syria. The Soviet delegation was received by the commander of the Air Force and Air Defense, a number of ranking officers from the Air Force and Air Defense, the Soviet ambassador in Damascus, and the Soviet Embassy staff. Afterwards, the guest delegation visited the Martyrs' Monument in Najha and laid a wreath on the Unknown Soldier Monument. Army Gen Tret'yak wrote a note in the visitor's book expressing deep respect for the feats and heroism of the Syrian soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the struggle against the Israeli aggressors. The Soviet general affirmed the USSR highly praises the militant course that is hostile to imperialism and Zionism followed by our state under the leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad.

Al-Asad Meets With Soviet Parliamentary Team

JN0312072589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] At 1830 yesterday, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received a Soviet parliamentary delegation headed by Absamat Masaliyev, member of the Supreme Soviet, first secretary of the Kirghiz Communist Party, and member of the CPSU Central Committee. 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, speaker of the People's Assembly; Shakir Is'ayyid, chairman of the Arab and International Affairs Committee at the People's Assembly; and Aleksandr Zotov, the Soviet ambassador in Damascus, attended the meeting.

Masaliyev conveyed to the president a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, as well as greetings from President Gorbachev and the Soviet leadership.

His excellency the president asked Masaliyev to convey his greetings and best wishes to President Gorbachev, the Soviet leadership, and the friendly Soviet people. Talks during the meeting dealt with the Middle East situation, international issues, and bilateral relations.

The Soviet delegation expressed appreciation for the firm and principled policy pursued by Syria on the international scene and for the effective and constructive role it is playing in the region. The delegation moreover voiced appreciation for the important and constructive role Syria has been playing in Lebanon—a role that has contributed to the success of the national accord process in Lebanon and the mechanism used to achieve this accord.

The Soviet parliamentary delegation affirmed the Soviet leadership's eagerness to safeguard the friendship with Syria and bolster cooperation and coordination with it.

His excellency the president underscored the importance attached by Syria to the friendship with the USSR and its eagerness to continue efforts to further develop bilateral cooperation in the interest of world peace and a just peace in the region. His excellency the president also affirmed Syria's constant efforts to achieve a just peace in the region and asserted Syria believes the best way to attain this peace is to convene an international conference under UN auspices.

Egyptian Workers, Others Stage Anti-Iraq March

JN0212204789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Damascus—The Association of Egyptian Workers in Syria this morning staged a march. Participating in the march were the Egyptian workers' associations in Syria, the democratic workers' union movement in the Republic of Iraq, and the association of expelled Iraqis. The marchers roamed Damascus streets and presented memoranda to the General Secretariat of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions [ICATU] condemning the brutal repressive acts and the dismissal and killing by the fascist Iraqi regime of the Egyptian workers in Iraq. These actions resulted in the slaughter of hundreds of Egyptian workers at the hands of the gangs of the Iraqi regime. The memoranda stressed these odious crimes can be added to the black record of Saddam Husayn, the fascist ruler of Iraq, whether in terms of his destruction of Iraq through his crazy war against Iran or in terms of his repression and terrorism against the Iraqi people and their nationalist forces, his use of chemical weapons in northern Iraq, his siding with the hireling isolationist clique in Lebanon, and his provision of arms, weapons, and experts to this clique.

The memoranda urged Arab and world public opinion, unionist and democratic and humanitarian organizations, the ICATU, the World Federation of Trade Unions, the International Center for Trade Union Rights and Freedoms, Amnesty International, and organizations defending human rights, to raise their voice in solidarity with the Egyptian workers, who are being exposed to killing, terrorism, and confiscation of rights, and to display solidarity with the Iraqi working class, which is being subjected to various forms of terrorism and confiscation of trade union and democratic freedoms.

Brother Sabri Badr, deputy secretary general of ICATU, spoke on the occasion. He underscored the ICATU General Secretariat's concern for the Arab workers' trade union rights and freedoms, and its defense of their interests and dignity wherever they are.

NPF, PRC Delegations Hold Talks in Damascus

JN0412084889 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] A round of official talks was conducted at National Progressive Front [NPF] Central Command headquarters this afternoon between the NPF delegation led by Dr Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president and deputy chairman of the NPF, and the delegation of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference [CPPCC] led by Han Kehua, member of the CPPCC Standing Committee and vice chairman of the CPPCC Foreign Affairs Committee.

The talks were attended by 'Abd-al-Ghani Qannut, Fayiz Isma'il, and Safwan Qudsi, members of the NPF Central Command; members of the Chinese delegation; and the PRC ambassador in Damascus.

The two sides during the talks reviewed the basic tasks of the NPF in Syria and the CPPCC, their work programs, and their local and external roles. The two sides also reviewed issues of common interest and the ways to reinforce and strengthen bilateral relations between the NPF and the CPPCC and to develop their common work on regional and international levels to serve the interests of the two friendly peoples, confront the schemes of the imperialist and Zionist forces, and achieve just peace in the Arab region and the world.

Han Tehua, leader of the Chinese delegation, expressed his country's appreciation for Syria's big and distinguished role on the Arab and international levels, as well as for the prominent position it gained under the leadership of the President Hafiz al-Asad. The leader of the Chinese delegation also affirmed his country's support for the just struggle waged by the Arab masses to liberate the occupied Arab territory and achieve the Palestinian Arab people's national, inalienable rights. He expressed confidence his visit will contribute to reinforcing existing relations of friendship between the two countries and peoples.

The CPPCC delegation arrived this morning in Damascus. Fayiz Isma'il and Safwan Qudsi, members of the NPF Central Command, received the delegation.

Damascus TV Reports Mubarak-Harbah Meeting

JN0212210489 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak this afternoon received Interior Minister Dr Muhammad Harbah, who currently is in the Egyptian capital to attend the eighth session of the Arab interior ministers council.

The Arab interior ministers council began its current 3-day session yesterday, Friday.

India

V.P. Singh Addresses Media Following Election

BK0112161589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Excerpts] The president, Mr R. Venkataraman, has invited Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh to form the new government at the center following his election as the leader of the National Front in Parliament and of Janata Dal parliamentary party. A Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house] communique issued this evening by the president says that since the Congress-I which has been elected to the ninth Lok Sabha with the largest number of members has opted not to stake its claim to form the government, he has invited Mr V.P. Singh, the leader of the second largest party and group—the Janata Dal and the National Front—to form the government. The communique said Mr V.P. Singh is to prove his majority in the Lok Sabha within 30 days of his assuming office.

Mr V.P. Singh will be sworn in as the new prime minister tomorrow. In the afternoon, the central hall of Parliament witnessed the climax of the hectic political activity of the recent elections when Mr V.P. Singh was unanimously elected as the leader of the National Front in parliament and of Janata Dal parliamentary party. [passage omitted]

Addressing a crowded news conference in the central hall of parliament soon after his election, Mr V.P. Singh said his government will give top priority to the control of price rise. He said it will also endeavor to restore the dignity of the country and to preserve its unity and integrity. His government will give priority to electoral reforms so that state funding of elections are possible. Mr Singh said it is committed to the freedom of the press and to making radio and television autonomous bodies. The lokpal [ombudsman] bill will be reintroduced to eradicate corruption in high places.

Replying to a volley of questions of various issues, Mr V.P. Singh said his government will be stable and viable one. On the Bofors issue, Mr V.P. Singh said it will not be personalized and the government will not be vindictive. The law of the land will take its course.

Mr V.P. Singh assured that proper security will be provided to Mr Rajiv Gandhi and his family members. On Punjab, he said his government will try to heal the wounds and a new initiative will be taken to solve the problems not only in Punjab but also in Jammu and Kashmir. On Babri Masjid [the disputed shrine claimed by both Hindus and Muslims] issue, Mr V.P. Singh said his government will make an effort to find an amicable solution involving all parties.

On foreign policy, he said his government will abide by nonalignment and will make efforts to improve relationships with neighboring countries, particularly with Sri Lanka and Nepal. While thanking members for the confidence reposed in him, Mr V.P. Singh spoke about the priorities of his government.

[Begin V.P. Singh recording] Our first task would be to restore the dignity of the country which we have lost in the past years. It will be our task that the emotional integrity and the cultural integrity of the country is maintained. Apart from development, social and economic equity will be the focal point of our efforts and democracy has to be taken to the grass roots, so participation of the poor is there. [end recording]

V.P. Singh Takes Oath, Meets With Reporters

BK0212091089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Mr Viswanath Pratap Singh has been sworn in as the new prime minister. The president, Mr R. Venkataraman, administered the oath of office and secrecy to him in the Ashok Hall of Rashtrapathi Bhavan [president's house] at 1230 [0700 GMT] this afternoon in the presence of a large gathering.

The Haryana chief minister, Mr Devi Lal, was sworn in as deputy prime minister. With this, India's first multiparty National Front government has assumed office. Both Mr V.P. Singh and Mr Devi Lal took their oaths in Hindi. The distinguished audience included the vice president, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma; the outgoing prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi; the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr L.K. Advani; the West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu; several other political leaders; and a number of the newly-elected members of parliament.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi was among the first to congratulate the new prime minister.

Our correspondent reports that the historic Ashok Hall was jam-packed with people to witness the smooth handing over of power in the world's biggest democracy. The national and the international press corps were present to cover the big event.

Talking to newsmen soon after the swearing-in ceremony, Mr V.P. Singh said that he will take 2 or 3 days to announce his cabinet. Replying to a question he said he will be able to prove his majority within the stipulated 30 days.

Replying to another question, the deputy prime minister, Mr Devi Lal, said that efforts will be made to bring Mr Chandrasekhar into the cabinet.

More on V.P. Singh's Remarks

BK0212161989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Excerpts] The National Front leader, Mr Viswanath Pratap Singh, has been sworn in as the new prime minister of the country. Mr Devil Lal is the deputy prime

minister. The president, Mr R. Venkataraman, administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr V.P. Singh marking the installation of a multi-party National Front government at the center. He was followed by Mr Devi Lal to take the oath.

The 10-minute ceremony in the Ashoka Hall of Rashtrapathi Bhavan [president's house] this afternoon was attended by several dignitaries, leaders of different political parties, and a large number of enthusiastic Janata Dal supporters. Among the notable absentees was the Janata Dal leader, Mr Chandrashekhar.

Replying to a volley of questions from newsmen during an informal get together after the ceremony, Mr V.P. Singh said he will take 2 or 3 days to announce his cabinet. He asserted that he will be able to prove his majority within the stipulated period of 30 days.

Mr V.P. Singh also reiterated that measures to bring down prices of essential commodities will receive top priority. The problem will be taken up at a meeting of secretaries. Special attention will be paid to the problems of youth in the fields of education and employment. Steps will also be taken to divert this powerful force for socioeconomic change. The prime minister said his government is keen on bringing in a panchayati raj [administration by local bodies] system, which does not go counter to the federal structure of the existing system.

On foreign policy, he said it will be based on goodneighborly relations and solidarity with developing and nonaligned countries.

The deputy prime minister, Mr Devi Lal, told reporters that Mr Chandrashekhar will be persuaded to join the cabinet.

Newsmen also put a number of question to Mr Rajiv Gandhi. Asked how long he (?saw) the new government would last, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said it has been elected for 5 years and he hoped it will last the full term. He agreed with a questioner that the Ram Janma Bhumi Babri Masjid [a shrine in dipute between Hindus and Muslims] issue was the main cause for his party's defeat in the general elections. Asked for his views on a government of national reconciliation, Mr Gandhi said so far no such proposal has been made to the Congress-I; if it is made they would examine the matter. Mr Gandhi said the nation had made tremendous progress during the last 5 years, especially in the economic field. India's prestige has also gone up in the national [as heard] sphere, he added.

Prime Minister V.P. Singh Addresses Nation

BK0312154389 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1500 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Address to the Nation by Indian Prime Minister Vishwanat Pratap Singh; place not given—recorded]

[Text] Dear countrymen: It was only a few days back that we were with you seeking a mandate. We sought you out on the highways and the lanes and bylanes of our villages and our cities. It will be my endeavor that the government structures do not come in the way of the dialogue we have established. We have brought to this capital city the dust of the fields and granaries of India. Its message will guide us in everything that we do. Feeling may glitter, but millions of Indian homes are without the light of hope. The voice of the government will be the voice of such homes and the voice of peasants, workers, and the youth. Its power is a sword; it will be wielded on behalf of the poor and the toiling masses.

The people of India have made a major contribution in the struggle for change in the last few years. For this, I am grateful to you.

On behalf of the National Front and the Janata Dal, I thank the left parties and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] for extending support to the new government for the new challenges that are before us.

After a long dark night, the day has dawned, but it is a misty dawn. The coffers of the government are empty, our hearts are inflamed. There has been much violence and bloodshed. Inflation has impoverished our people. But we have two main strengths—your faith and our fortitude. It is these strengths which has enabled us to succeed in our difficult struggle and they alone will again need your blood to forge ahead on our chosen path.

We will try to solve the burning problems of the nation through consensus and reconciliation. The opposition will also be taken into confidence. India belongs to all of us and all must work for her progress.

The agony of Punjab continues. While separatism is no answer to our problems, there is an urgent need for a national endeavor to resolve the problem. A national effort will be made to resolve the complex problems like Punjab, Jammu, and Kashmir, and the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine in Uttar Pradesh state claimed by both Hindus and Muslims] issues. Riots and violence have shaken us, but we should not forget that our greatest strength is our emotional oneness. We will not allow this to be weakened. A nation is not a map on a piece of paper; it lives in the hearts of the people, and if hearts are divided the nation is divided. We will not allow this to happen. Much blood has been spilled; now it's time that we shed some tears. Only then this can be washed away.

This vast country cannot feel the glow of freedom if power is concentrated in government secretariat. Millions and millions of our people in villages, towns, and cities of India should have the responsibility of governing themselves. Ram Manohar Lohia and Jaiprakash Narain [former Janata Dal leaders] dreamed of decentralization of power. We will fulfill their dreams. We shall bring forward legislation for genuine panchayat raj [village councils administrative system] which will respect the imperatives of our federal structure. Norms

and values are the bedrock of democracy. Therefore, the sanctity of democratic institutions will be restored and the autonomy of the judiciary, CAG [comptroller and auditor general] and parliament will be strengthened.

We will establish a lokpal [ombudsman] to ensure that moral values of public life are not violated. Even the prime minister will not be above such scrutiny.

We would have to increase access to information. If the government functions in full public view, wrongdoings will be minimized. To this end the Official Secrets Act will be amended and we will make the function of the government more transparent. Secrecy will be maintained only where the interest of national security and foreign relations are involved.

Free flow of information is a prerequisite for democracy. The right to information will be enshrined in our Constitution and the Doordarshan [television] and AIR [All India Radio] will be given autonomy.

Inflation has hurt the poor. It is in these difficult circumstances that we have taken office. These difficulties will bring forth all our strength and resolution. India lives in its villages. Today, there is a flight of wealth, labor, and talent from the villages. As long as this continues, the villages will remain economically weak. We have resolved that at least half of the investment outlay should be channelled to rural areas. The terms of trade for the farmers and workers have deteriorated, and for their hard work they get debt and poverty. The small farmers, landless laborers, agricultural laborers, artisans, and weavers will be provided with debt relief.

A very large number of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe brethren are without even basic shelter. It will be our primary aim to ensure that they live lives of dignity and honor. The fire of hunger can be extinguished by food, but the fire that ignites the mind of the disinherited can only culminate in a revolution. History has placed on the agenda of the nation the imperative of economic and social justice. Life-long suffering is the fate of the weaker sections. Nothing is worse than a life of indignity. Social justice demands that hope must light up the life of the weaker sections.

It will be our endeavor that minorities live without fear and as equal partners of our country's progress. The future of the country depends on them. Today, they are neglected and exploited.

The first step toward systematic change is to bring women into the national mainstream.

The youth has played a major role in the change of government. I am grateful to them. The youth of a nation are not called upon only to change the government, they are called upon to change history. Structures and systems are not changed in the corridors of power. Social forces have to be mobilized to transform society. I summon our youth to organize our people not only to change governments, but also to bring about basic changes in the lives of the poor.

Our democracy has to be liberated from the evil influence of money power. To this end, the youth can mobilize all working people in the struggle of a new order.

A country's foreign policy is built on a national consensus. Our policy of nonalignment is derived from our national commitment. In the changed circumstances, we shall try to strengthen nonalignment. We shall continue to struggle for peace, disarmament, and development. We are committed to fighting apartheid in South Africa, and for securing the brave Palestinian people their inalienable rights. Effective steps will be taken to improve relations with our neighbors. It shall be our endeavor to make SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] a dynamic institution.

I thank you for the support you have given for the change of the government. We need greater support to face the new challenges. And, I assure you that we will give you a government that an Indian would be proud of. Jail hind. [Hail India].

Singh Reviews Ties With Neighbors, Bofors Issue

BK0412032589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has called for a dialogue with Pakistan to ensure that a nuclear race does not start in the subcontinent. He said the initiative should come from Pakistan as there are reports that Islamabad is well advanced in the making of a bomb. Mr Singh, in an interview to the Dubayy-based English daily THE KHALEEJ TIMES, said we should certainly avoid the path of going nuclear, otherwise it is going to be a tremendous strain on our resources. He said India's nuclear program is meant only for peaceful purposes.

The prime minister said his government's efforts will be to improve India's relations with all its neighbors and effective steps will be taken in this regard.

About Indo-Nepal relations, the prime minister said there has always been a good understanding between the two countries. Even if there are a few differences, they can be sorted out amicably. Mr Singh said the recent trauma which Nepal had undergone was quite unnecessary.

About India's role in Sri Lanka, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh said his government favors a phased withdrawal of the Peacekeeping Force. He said we want our jawans [soldiers] back home at the earliest.

On the Bofors [gun deal] issue, Mr Singh said the government will try to find out who got the kickbacks in the gun deal. The law of the land must prevail. He said

Bofors certainly will have to return that money to India, but he made it absolutely clear that his government will not be vindictive.

On the Punjab problem, the prime minister said we have to approach the people in Punjab at the grass-roots level. He expressed his confidence that normalcy can be restored in the state. The issue is one of the priorities of the present government, Mr Singh added.

Chandra Shekhar Has Reservations About Singh

BK0112170689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Mr V.P. Singh, accompanied by other National Front leaders, called on the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] leaders to inform them about his election as the front leader and thank them for their support.

Mr Chandra Shekhar who was present at both the National Front and the Janata Dal Parliamentary Party meetings however expressed reservations over the choice.

Four left parties—the CPI-M, CPI, the RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party], and the Forward Bloc have extended their support to Mr V.P. Singh to form a government at the center. They informed the president, Mr R. Venkataraman, of their decision in a letter handed over by the West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, and the CPI-M leader, Mr Harkishan Singh Surjit. The letter has been signed by the CPI-M general secretary, Mr E.M.S. Namboodiripad, the CPI leader, Mr Indrajit Gupta, the RSP general secretary, Mr Trideep Chaudhary, and the Forward Bloc general secretary, Mr Chitta Basu.

Li Peng Congratulates V.P. Singh on Premiership

BK0312085689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] The Chinese premier, Mr Li Peng, has felicitated Mr V.P. Singh on assuming the prime ministership of the country. In a message, Mr Li Peng expressed the hope that goodneighborly relations between the two countries would improve and develop further on the basis of five principles of peaceful coexistence. The message said: May the Republic of India enjoy prosperity and its people well-being.

Deputy Prime Minister Interviewed on Key Issues

BK0212163889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] The deputy prime minister, Mr Devi Lal, has said that talks are on between the National Front and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] on arriving at a minimum program. He said this while addressing a news conference in New Delhi this evening, but did not elaborate.

Replying to a question, Mr Devi Lal expressed confidence that the Janata Dal leader, Mr Chandrashekhar, will extend his full support to the government. The deputy prime minister said the Punjab problem will be tackled on a priority basis. He said attention will also be paid to tackle various economic problems and to fulfill the poll promises about providing basic needs of the people.

Replying to a question, Mr Devi Lal said the new government will provide full protection to the former prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and his family.

Denies Allowing 'Family Rule'

BK0312090889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] The deputy prime minister, Mr Devi Lal, has said that the National Front is holding talks with some other parties in a bid to bring them into the new government in the center. Addressing a press conference in Madras today, he said the discussions were on with leaders of a few parties on this matter. He said National Front is trying to bring more people into the government. Mr Devi Lal said Mr Chandrashekhar is a senior political leader of the Janata Dal and will be persuaded to join the cabinet. He said the constituents of the National Front are also likely to be accommodated in the new cabinet.

Mr Devi Lal said top priority will be given to solving the Punjab problem.

Mr Devi Lal said due representation in the union council of ministers will be given for the representatives from the south. He said that the central government will adopt a three-language formula and English will be the link language and regional languages will be given enough encouragement for their development. He said he also wants the Rashtra Bhasha [national language] Hindi to develop as well.

On the demand for the resignation of DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] rule in Tamil Nadu, Mr Devi Lal said that there is no need as the government has come to power only a year ago.

Mr Devi Lal denied that he is allowing any family rule in Haryana and Delhi. He said that his son Mr Om Prakash Chautala was unanimously elected as the Haryana chief minister by the Haryana legislature because of his excellent work.

BJP's President Advani Outlines Party Policies

BK0312161189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr L.K. Advani, has categorically stated that his party will not join the central government but will lend support from outside. He was briefing newsmen at the end of the party's National Executive meeting in New Delhi today.

Mr Advani also said that the BJP will not share power in Haryana though it will continue to support the Chautala ministry.

The BJP president urged the prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, to take a vote of confidence in the Lok Sabha at the earliest and not wait for the stipulated 30-day period. He said this will ensure the National Front government sufficient time to prepare and present its budget.

Mr Advani suggested that a constitutional amendment should be brought forward in the very first session for extending reservations for the scheduled castes and tribes for another decade in parliament and state legislatures.

He disclosed that the National Front leaders are already in touch with the BJP to identify areas of commonality in their respective manifestos. Some of the areas include debt relief to farmers and inclusion of right to work in the Constitution as a fundamental right.

On Punjab, the BJP president wanted the government to take a new initiative as a political process has started in the state with the holding of Lok Sabha elections.

On the Bofors issue, Mr Advani said the matter should be pursued to identify the persons involved in it. But at the same time, the law should take its own course on corruption charges and the government should not be vindictive. He also wanted a probe into the sugar import deal.

Charges Dropped Against Gandhi Murder Suspect

BK2911072489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0651 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 29 (AFP)—Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has ordered the government to drop conspiracy charges against Surjit Singh Mann, suspected of involvement in the murder of his mother, former prime minister Indira Gandhi.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said Wednesday [29 November] that Mr. Gandhi, whose party Tuesday conceded defeat in India's general elections, had passed the order to Home Minister Buta Singh.

It quoted Mr. Gandhi as saying that Mr. Mann, who won a seat in parliament in the polls campaigning from his prison cell, had sworn allegiance to the Constitution.

Mr. Mann, a former Sikh police officer who deserted the force, ran for a parliamentary seat in the Tarn Taran constituency in the troubled Punjab, torn by a Sikh separatist campaign that has left more than 1,200 dead this year.

He was elected with a resounding 400,000 vote margin.

During the campaign Mr. Mann's party, the Akali Dal-Mann had "taken a resolute stand against separatism and violence," Mr. Gandhi was quoted as telling Mr. Buta Singh.

Indira Gandhi was gunned down by two Sikh bodyguards on October 31, 1984.

Bhimal Khalsa, 35, the widow of one of the assassins, Beant Singh, was also elected to parliament by a huge margin of more than 200,000 votes.

Commandos shot dead Mr. Beant Singh and wounded his associate constable Satwant Singh, who was hanged earlier this year.

Ms. Khalsa was one of six Akali Dal-Mann candidates, four of whom won seats to parliament in the elections.

Governor Orders Release of Akali Dal Leaders

BK0112115889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1135 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] The Punjab governor, Mr S.S. Ray, has directed the state administration to take immediate steps as required by law to release the detained Akali [Dal] leaders—Mr Prakash Singh Badal, Mr G.S. Tohra, Mr Ujagar Singh, Mr Shekhon, and Mr Harminder Singh Sandhu. These leaders had been detained either under the National Security Act or on specific charges.

Talking to newsmen in Chandigarh today, Mr Ray said the cases of other detainees were also being looked into.

Mr Ray denied reports that he is resigning. He said he had no reason to resign and cannot run away from his responsibility.

Sikhs Freed From Jail

BK0212164889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] The Akali Dal-Mann group chief and the newly-elected member of Lok Sabha, Mr Simranjit Singh Mann, and four other co-accused were released from the Bhagalpur central jail this evening. They have left for Amritsar.

The home secretary, Mr J.L. Arya told our Patna correspondent that all the cases against Mr Mann and others have been withdrawn.

The Punjab government also released two senior Akali Dal leaders—the former chief minister, Mr Prakash Singh Badal and the SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak—Sikh Temple Management—Committee] chief, Mr G.S. Tohra.

Sikh Leaders Urge Solution to Punjab Problem

BK0412035589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] The chief of the Akali Dal-Mann group, Mr Simranjit Singh Mann, newly elected member of the Lok Sabha, has urged the center to consider the Anandpur Saheb Resolution [on Punjab autonomy]. He said to restore peace in Punjab, the center should hold negotiations with the Damdami Taksal [the Sikh seminary], the

Panthic [Sikh religious] Committee, All India Sikh Students Federation, and the Akali Dal. He was addressing a meeting yesterday at the Akal Takht [the highest seat of Sikh religious authority] in Amritsar. Mr Mann demanded action against those responsible for police excesses in the state.

Affirming his faith in the Constitution, he called upon the people to fight for their rights in a constitutional manner. Mr Mann underlined that whatever they fought for was under the purview of the Indian Constitution and it was up to the government whether or not to invoke the constitutional provisions.

Meanwhile, the SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee or Sikh Temples Management Committee] president has urged the National Front government to ensure the installation of a popular government in Punjab. Mr Tohra was addressing a press conference in Ludhiana.

CPI Questions Idea of Reconciliation Government

BK0112133089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] The CPI [Communist Party of India] says the proposal mooted by some quarters for the formation of a government of national reconciliation is totally unrealistic in the present circumstances. A resolution adopted by the party central executive in New Delhi said the National Front should form a government on its own.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr L.K. Advani, has said that a national reconciliation government is still a vague idea and as parties consider stand till now is to support a National Front government from outside. [sentence as heard] In an interview with our correspondent welcoming the election of Mr V.P. Singh as the leader of the Janata Dal parliamentary party, Mr Advani hoped that under his leadership that Janata Dal will work effectively for service of the country.

Goa Governor Asks for President's Rule in State

BK0212102989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] The governor of Goa, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan, has advised the president to impose president's rule in Goa for a brief period. Disclosing this to newsmen at Raj Bhavan [governor's residence] in Panaji today, the governor said that the elections for the remaining two assembly seats will be held on the 7th of next month. He hoped that the present political impasse will be solved at that time by the people of the state. Mr Khan said since the Congress-I and the Maharashtra Gomantak Party has 18 members each in the assembly, he has come to the conclusion that no party could form a stable government. The governor further said that presidential rule will not be there more than a day necessary. The new assembly will be kept in suspended animation after the president's rule is imposed.

Party Wants President's Rule Imposed in Kashmir

BK0212165289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party, on the 2d day of its national executive session, has demanded imposition of president's rule in Jammu and Kashmir in view of, what it called, virtual collapse of law and order in the state. A resolution adopted by the national executive of the party in New Delhi today also called for effective steps to check infiltration and arms trafficking across the border.

New Haryana Chief Minister Takes Oath 2 Dec

BK0212131589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Mr Om Prakash Chautala was today sworn in as the new chief minister of Haryana by the state governor Mr H.A. Barari at a simple function in New Delhi today. This follows the resignation of Mr Devi Lal after his induction at the center as deputy prime minister. Mr Chautala is a sitting member of the Rajya Sabha and is the leader of the state unit of the Janata Dal.

Officials Resign Following Government Change

BK0312042589 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Mr R.K. Dhavan, additional secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat, has resigned from his post. Official sources in New Delhi said that Mr Bhavan's resignation has been accepted with effect from the 30th of November.

The attorney general, Mr K. Parasaran, and additional solicitors general, Mr G. Ramaswamy and Mr B. Dutta, today resigned from their posts as a matter of convention. Mr Ramaswamy, in his resignation letter to the prime minister, has requested acceptance of the resignation within a week. As per convention, law officers tender their resignations with a change of the government.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Submits Resignation

BK0312092689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] The Rajasthan chief minister, Mr Shivcharan Mathur, has resigned owning responsibility for the party's rout in the Lok Sabha elections from the state. He submitted his resignation in Jaipur at midnight last night after his return from Delhi. The governor, Mr Sukhdev Prasad, has accepted his resignation and asked him to continue till the new government is formed.

The state Congress-I legislature party is to meet in Jaipur this afternoon to elect its new leader. Two central observers—Mr Brahma Dutt, and Mr Jagdish Tytler—are to participate as AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-Indira] observers.

Iran

Daily Compares Milieus of Malta, Yalta Meetings

LD0312094189 Tehran IRNA in English 0640 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 3, IRNA—The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' in an editorial Sunday commented on the ongoing superpower summit in Malta.

Although major Middle Eastern issues such as the situation in Lebanon, Palestinian problem, Iraqi rejection of the U.N. Resolution 598 and the Afghanistan crisis are high in the agenda of the summit, "yet regional nations should by no means allow the superpowers to settle these problems in a way that will only serve their own global interests."

Raising the question whether the Malta summit is another Yalta in which the two superpowers in 1945 divided the world into two spheres of domination and "subjected most developments to their own selfish interests," it said that from economic, social and geographical points of view the world today is much different from that of the mid-40's.

"Polycentrism that is now sweeping East Europe definitely runs counter to any idea of having satellite states," it said.

"The non-communist government of Poland and the Stalinist regime of Romania are by far different from what Gorbachev had ever imagined in his wildest dreams, when he initiated the reforms," said the editorial.

With the same token the situation for the West is just as different, it no longer has the domination on "its once strategic allies or satellite states."

More on the diminishing influence of the superpowers, the editorial said that the European continent is emerging as a new giant. "The Bonn-Paris axis appears quite committed to challenge both superpowers, especially the U.S. and if they join hands the chances are they can."

Therefore, Bush in the summit cannot represent the West in its totallity as the U.S. presidents once used to, it said.

Unfortunately, despite all this developments since the Yalta summit, the two superpowers still enjoy significant influence over the Third World and many of the problems of these countries are the products of superpower policies. Yet the poor economic conditions and its consequences such as the cultural poverty, pave the way for superpower influence.

KEYHAN HAVAI on Revolution's Changes

PM0112112689 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 1 Nov 89 pp 17, 22, 25

[Letter from 'Ali Mo'men-Zadeh on changing face of the revolution, KEYHAN HAVAI's reply]

[Excerpts] Greetings to the brothers at KEYHAN HAVAI. I would hereby like to mention a few things, that I hope you will be able to clarify for me.

The first concerns the removal of Mr Mohtashemi from the Ministry of Interior. Now, I do not have any special feelings for the man and it would not make any difference to me whether or not he stayed in one position or another. However, this person was identified as a representative of a special line of thought and the West and the United States showed a lot of sensitivity toward him, engaging in extensive propaganda against him. He was, after the late imam, the most hated man in the West.

This is a case where the removal of a person from a political post was not just part of a reshuffle and this is what has worried us. With this removal, I feel the West and the United States scored their first victory after the death of the imam. I think that Mr Hashemi Rafsanjani removed Mr Mohtashemi from his position in order to give the green light to the West as a symbolic gesture. He did this to strengthen the Western belief which regards him as a pragmatic and moderate figure.

You know very well Westerners believe that if one day Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani had to choose between the practical or the ideological, he would choose the former. This is why they think he is a man they can negotiate with and do business with. Is Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani really like this? Unfortunately, his first act was to remove someone about whom the West and the United States were showing a lot of sensitivity; this had great import. For the Americans, it was proof they were right about our president.

Unfortunately, I have this feeling in my heart that within the next few years we shall see relations established between Iran and the United States and with its illegitimate child, Israel. I fear that soon the people will be told from the microphones at the Friday prayers that they should no longer use the slogans "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" because it would not make sense to swear at countries we have relations with. This would be below accepted limits of civility and in any case not in the political interests of the country. I not only feel that we shall soon see the opening of the wicked embassy of the United States in Tehran, but also a U.S. ambassador laying flowers at the imam's grave or the grave of the Unknown Soldier. Not only that, but we shall also see the removal of the imam's death sentence passed on Salman Rushdie because, after all, it is not in the interest of the country. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN HAVAI's response] Dear brother, in order to answer your question about Mr Mohtashemi's removal, we first must find a suitable answer to a more basic question which has been mentioned these days in the domestic and foreign press: Has the revolution entered a new phase? We think that if we analyze the reasons which some say point to changes in the revolution, then we shall have a better understanding of the events that occur in the revolution. We will also discover if the

removal of someone like Mr Mohtashemi, by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, is giving the green light to the West or a simple cabinet reshuffle.

There are several main reasons given by the local media to a lesser degree, and by the foreign media to a larger extent, to prove there have been some basic changes in the values of the revolution and the ideals of the regime. These can be summarized in the following points:

1. The removal of radical and progressive elements such as Mr Mohtashemi.
2. The expansion of ties with the West and some of the reactionary regimes in the region.
3. The changes in Iran's policy toward Lebanon and its internal issues.
4. The manifestation of a soft spot toward the West when it comes to the issue of the hostages.
5. The putting aside of slogans dealing with exporting the revolution.
6. The changes in economic policy.
7. The comments made by some officials on the necessity of having relations with Western countries and their regional lackies. [passage omitted]

Let us now look at these issues in detail. Changing positions and jobs in the country's executive or judicial hierarchy is s normal occurence in all countries of the world. The top officials in the country are allowed, according to their legal rights, to choose people to take the positions below them. [passage omitted]

The same thing has happened with Mr Mohtashemi. The president has not denied Mr Mohtashemi's qualifications for the management of the Interior Ministry or its affiliated organizations. It is just that he has recognized someone else, Mr Nuri, to be better. This is something that the president insisted on in the Majles when he was introducing his cabinet.

Other changes that have taken place in the cabinet follow the same rule. The only difference is that in some cases some of the officials like Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili chose not to accept a post in order to assume responsibilities at a theological center.

You may ask that if the issue were that simple, why has there been so much outside reaction to it? We would like to point out at this time that this does not mean there are no differences of opinion in the country with regard to the various issues and problems that exist. One can clearly see these differences in the various comments that are made and also in the actions of some of the officials. What we are claiming is that this difference of opinion is actually very different from what the outside propaganda machines or the simple and naive people inside believe. It has another direction.

Western mass media and those elements inside the country that are affected by Western media and propaganda believe that the differences of opinion are divided into two radical and moderate groupings. They believe that one group believes in compromising with the West and leaving behind the values of the revolution, while the other group believes in a firm stand against the West and at the same time resists the efforts of the first group that wants to get close to the West.

There are within the ruling ranks of the regime differences of opinion with regard to the methods that have to be used to achieve the goals of the revolution but there are no two groups which cannot work side by side together. This factionalism is almost always a figment of the imagination. [passage omitted]

It has been mentioned many times by Western mass media that the Islamic Republic needs Western technology and investment in order to carry out its long-term economic planning and reconstruction work. In this regard it would have no choice but to show political flexibility and to stop short of achieving the goals of the revolution, both inside and outside the country. This mass media group presents the above-mentioned theory as fact and then assumes there are some steps being taken by pragmatic Iranian officials to get close to the West.

But what is the reality? The Islamic Republic is pursuing both the internal and external goals of the revolution simultaneously. Of course, at the top of the agenda on the internal scene is the formation of an ideal society. At the same time at the top of our external agenda is the cultural export of the revolution, to awaken the Muslim masses so that they can get rid of foreign influences and take political control into their own hands. [passage omitted]

The late Imam's position in the Salman Rushdie affair showed that despite Iran's failure to achieve its just demands in the war and its acceptance of Resolution 598, the revolution was still determined to realize its external goals and would not lose a single chance to achieve this.

Today the leader of the revolution and other top officials of the country are following the path of the late imam and one can hardly see any signs that they are compromising with the West. The Islamic Republic welcomes economic cooperation with all countries—Eastern, Western, and Third World—for its reconstruction projects. However, it is not going to give up on the goals of the revolution. This is also the reason why there has been no change in the way the Western countries continue to treat Iran. Relations between Iran and those countries remain dismal.

Mr Mo'men-Zadeh, in order that we may speak in more specific terms, let us take Iran's relations with the countries in question to see if there is a difference in these relations compared to when the imam was alive:

Israel and South Africa are recognized as two regimes of occupation which are illegitimate and always attacked by officials of our country. Any type of relation with them is out of the question.

The United States is at the top of the list of our enemies because of its domineering nature, its past history of meddling into Iran's affairs, continued hostility toward the Islamic revolution, and the fact that U.S. interests do not match those of the revolution. Any kind of relations with that country is out of the question so long as the United States maintains its imperialist nature and Iran follows the revolution's external goals. So far as we are concerned there has been no change either in the basic nature of the United States, nor in our beliefs.

Our relations with Britain depend on the Majles ruling. This means that until Britain stops the publication and distribution of the book "The Satanic Verses," and until such time that it agrees to apologize to 1 billion Muslims, the severed relations between Iran and Britain will continue.

The regime in Saudi Arabia has in effect risen against the Islamic revolution by safeguarding American Islam in the interests of the West. It has prevented the holding of demonstrations against heretics, it has martyred hundreds of pilgrims, and it has stopped Iranian pilgrims going to the two holy mosques. The cut in relations with that regime will continue until whenever they decide to allow the performance of the hajj in the traditional way with demonstrations against heretics.

The relations between Iran and other countries in the Western and Eastern blocs are mostly dictated by the economic and political interests of the nation. Iran will continue to expand these ties in accordance with its political and economic interests without needing to set aside the principles of the revolution.

For example, our relations with the nations bordering the Persian Gulf are expanding because of our common interests in the Persian Gulf and OPEC and because of the help these countries can provide in the implementation of Resolution 598. It is natural, however, that the aim of the Islamic Republic is to expand ties with all of the Persian Gulf nations except Saudi Arabia. Iran has not changed its positions with regard to relations with these countries.

Mr Mo'men-Zadeh, one look at Iran's situation versus other nations before and after the death of the imam can tell you that things have not changed. The expansion and establishment of ties with other countries, especially those in the West ,continue to follow the traditional path of the imam.

You may have heard the remarks made in the Majles by some of the officials and Majles deputies such as Larijani, Rafa'i Khorasani, and Besharati, and you may have thought there is a calculated movement underway to smoothe the way to establish ties with Western countries and other nations like Saudi Arabia—that this movement is perhaps being supported by officials.

In order to make things clear for you, we remind you that following remarks by these gentlemen, there was swift and angry reaction from all corners of the country, including the press and other Majles deputies. This forced them to withdraw and correct their statements, which was also reflected in the national press. On the other hand, the position of the president, and even more serious than him, the leader of the revolution, go completely against the positions taken by these gentlemen. Even if you are not aware, we know these gentlemen were reprimanded in private session by both the president and the leader. You must, therefore, regard these statements as, first of all, naive and second, as the personal views of the people involved. You can also be sure that none of the top officials of our country, or indeed our people, will pay the slightest attention to these statements.

One of the reasons given to prove the changing direction of the revolution is said to be the forgotten goals of the revolution outside these borders. This is exactly the opposite of what our enemies believe. They think Iran still wants to export its revolution and this why they are not very kind to us. [passage omitted]

Alongside the claim that the revolution has abandoned its outside goals, there are those who point toward our policy in Lebanon. They claim that prior to this, Iran supported only the Hizballah but that recently it has also started to support Amal, which means that it has stopped strengthening the Hizbollah on a one-sided basis versus Amal.

The truth of the matter is that Hizballah is the best force and organization that could be supported by the Islamic Republic because of its revolutionary nature, its ideology, and because it will not compromise with traitors. This does not mean the Islamic Republic will ignore the issues of Lebanon and not try to unify all the Islamic forces at a time when the Islamic and nationalist movements in that country are threatened, when the United States, Israel and the Maronites are threatening all the Islamic forces in that country.

Today all the Islamic and nationalist groups in Lebanon have become united at the initiative of Iran and Syria. This unity is vital and necessary and it is normal that this unity should not be threatened by small and insignificant side issues. One must give priority to the interests of the country's Islamic population as opposed to the interests of specific groups. In the midst of all this, the Islamic Republic supports what is in the interests of the Lebanese. At the same time, Iran recognizes that the best organization to guide and deal with the issues of Lebanon's Shiite population and even the entire Muslim community, happens to be the Lebanese revolutionary movement. This is one position that Iran has always kept.

With regard to the hostage issue, the Islamic Republic has always acted within a certain framework. It has always condemned it as an irresponsible act against religion. It has asked for an end to such terrorist activity.

At an analytical level, however, Iran has always believed that hostage-taking is the result of actions undertaken by

the superpowers, especially interference by the West. This is why groups, political and military organizations, at times have no choice but to take Western people hostage in order to achieve their goals. This is especially true since many of the hostages are themselves instruments of Western domination.

This is why the Islamic Republic has always believed that in order to confront the issue of the hostages at its roots, one must first prevent government-sponsored terrorism by the United States and Israel, to prevent these countries interfering into the affairs of nations like Lebanon. If that were to happen, the motivation for various groups who take Western hostages would dissapear.

The third issue is that the Islamic Republic is respected by revolutionaries throughout the world as the leader in the struggle against the United States. So Iran's requests from the hostage-takers would have certain results. But it is also normal that Iran would want to use the situation to its own advantage, to use this problem of the West to resolve some of its own problems at home. Iran would only agree to take steps if the United States takes some steps toward realizing the rights of the Iranian people. One of the steps would be to give back Iranian funds.

It might be presumed that Iran wants a bribe from the United States in return for help to free the hostages, but this is not the case. While it is the right of foreign citizens to be free, it is also Iran's right to have its money returned. Without the United States' taking steps to return Iran's money, Iran does not have any incentive to solve a problem it has nothing to do with.

We have considered the hostage issue in terms of religion and analytical and practical solutions. We do not feel there have been any changes in these principles since the death of the imam. One cannot think of Iran's help to free the hostages as a step to get close to the West. Establishing ties with those countries depends on other things. It is just that Iran may use its influence with Lebanese groups to free the Western hostages in order to get what rightfully belongs to Iran.

The question of changing economic policy could also be pointed out as a sign that the present officials are deviating from the path of the revolution. We think it is important to mention it quickly. [passage omitted]

There have always been two points of view among our officials when it comes to managing the country's economy. There are those who believe that the government should extend its control in economic matters and that there should be strict laws and regulations to control the activities of the private sector. This group also believes in implementing a war-time policy and advocates stern confrontation against economic terrorists.

The other group believes in less government control, less spending by the government by handing over economic matters to the private sector, reducing obstructive laws concerning production, and so forth. They consider the role of the government to be only supervisory. They do not believe in government control of the economy, except in the case of major industries.

During the lifetime of the imam, there were believers of both systems but because of the war and the problems that came with it, it was impossible to implement one or the other of the policies individually. [passage omitted]

It seems that the current goverment has chosen the second path for its economic policy. It has started to sell government-owned factories to the private sector in order to raise money, promote growth, and decrease government spending. This will activate internal investments in the field of production instead of distribution and will lessen the amount of cash flow in society by lowering the government's budget deficit.

It is worth mentioning that in Islam, the government has the power to intervene because the system opposes capitalism as well as government-controlled socialism. At the same time, however, the people are allowed to be property owners and to engage in financial activity. So it is up to the Islamic government to adopt a policy best suited for the country. It does not have to follow any special policy, but in any case, there must be government supervision over economic matters.

So far as the revolution's values are concerned, the present situation does not deviate from social justice because the defenders of the new economic policy believe that the nation can achieve social justice alongside economic growth. [passage omitted]

We believe Westerners do not have a correct understanding of our internal issues; otherwise, they would have made sensible decisions about our revolution. The actions of the Western countries, and their naive and simplistic efforts to hit at the revolution—all of which resulted in strengthening the revolution—all point to this fact. This does not mean they know nothing about our system or our officials. Because of the freedom that exists in our society, it is enough for them to refer to articles in the press or debates in the Majles to discover the many differences of opinion that exist. The thing to remember though, is that they base their propaganda on this so-called understanding of our system.

They present the differences of opinion as two opposing factions. Simple people believe them and are influenced by this propaganda. A good example of this is your own letter. [passage omitted]

The truth of the matter is that you have taken many of your ideas from the propaganda lines of the enemy. Because in our society there is no line of thought similar to what you have said about Mr Mohtashemi or Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Mr Mohtashemi is a combatant clergyman and a revolutionary who fought for years against the shah and the United States. He will always volunteer his services to the revolution. It is normal that our people revolutionary position is not close to Mr Mohtashemi's, but to the

leader of the revolution. Even Mr Mohtashemi himself will move in the direction that the faqih dictates. He has never been and will never be indentified as a representative of a certain line of thought in this country. We are certain he himself would not deny this.

The same thing goes for Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He struggled for years for an Islamic society and then for 10 years tried to safeguard the achievements of the revolution under the hardest conditions, alongside the imam. This has made him a strong arm of the revolution and has brought him to the position of leadership in a way that he has enjoyed the complete trust of the late imam and Mr Khamene'i. There is not the slightest doubt as to his dedication to the imam's line.

Mr Mo'men-Zadeh, the Western mass media identify Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani as a moderate and Mr Mohtashemi as a radical and from this self-made introduction, they get the result that the face of Iran is changing. Unfortunately, you have accepted this view.

The Americans have tasted Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's cleverness in the issue of Irangate and they know how pragmatic he is. For this reason they confuse the issue. In their propaganda, they introduce our president as a moderate but they know full well that there are no moderates in Iranian politics.

Dear brother, you should know that if there were a moderate among our officials, the Americans would do everything in their power, even in secret to strengthen him. But when it comes to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his government—which makes up part of the system—there is still a lot of obstructionism and the West still considers Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his government very much part of our system.

Our funds are still blocked by the United States. Open support for Iraq by the United States is preventing the implementation of Resolution 598 and that country is supporting the Iraqi regime in order to place obstacles in the path of the resolution. The U.S. fleet is in the Persian Gulf even though they have no excuse to be there. The U.S. Congress has openly asked their government to support the overthrow of the Islamic regime in favor of the hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] and the petrochemical contract with Japan is broken off by the Japanese because of U.S. pressure. Western officials announce openly that there have been no changes in Iran so they should not change their attitude toward the revolution either.

At this time the West is trying to cause dissent in our society. They introduce Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani as a moderate in an effort to make him lose internal support and then they increase the people's expectations of the new government. Ultimately, they say that the government has no choice but to get close to the West to carry out the reconstruction plans and that would be at the price of losing the revolution's slogans and ideals.

The government of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani does not want quick economic growth with regard to reconstruction. It considers the country's economic welfare alongside the revolution's other goals. The economy is not the government's first priority, as the others wish to assume, especially at the price of surrendering the revolution. [passage omitted]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Praises Students

LD0212052489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Nov 89

[Excerpts] On the 6th day of Basij [mobilization] Week, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in a gathering of a large number of mobilization students and seminary students, praised their extensive participation in the task of reconstruction. In this gathering, various reports were presented on the activities of the mobilization of the seminary students and other students. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, addressing the basijis said: Your gathering is representing three groups: mobilization, seminary students, and [university] students, which are among the most esteemed cultural, military and political groups and which have achieved the greatest development in society, and which have a lot of experience of struggle and piety. If you succeed in keeping these three groups organized, solid and active in history, you will have a very good axis for attracting pious and enthusiastic forces for serving the Islamic revolution and for defending it. [passage omitted]

The president pointed to the healthy, divine, spiritual, and blossoming atmospheres of seminaries and universities and said: Fortunately this situation took on a more popular shape during the war and turned into a mobilization; and now, this very great Islamic-revolutionary investment is at the service of the revolution and the Islamic revolution, the crystalization of which lies in your (?hands). You must render this group more cohesive, and, by taking certain cultural measures, you should attract the young people who want to join this realm.

Iraq, U.S. in 'Plot' To Harm Iran-Austrian Ties

LD0312165689 Tehran IRNA in English 1355 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 3, IRNA—Austrian security forces have been surrounding Iran's embassy and cultural house in Vienna since last week in an unfriendly move and under the pretext of arresting three Iranian nationals suspected of involvement in the assassination of a Kurdish dissident leader several months ago.

The Vienna government is taking the hostile move against the Islamic Republic five months after the leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Democratic Party Abdulrahman Qasemloo [name as received] and two of his aides were gunned down by yet unidentified terrorists.

An Iranian diplomat who was negotiating with Qasemloo and his group in an apartment in Vienna was also wounded in the attack.

The forces encircling the Iranian Embassy are reported to have roughly dealt with the embassy staff and those calling at the building, in contradiction with diplomatic norms.

The evidence offered by the Austrian Justice ministry in support of its charges against the three Iranian nationals are so baseless that leaves no doubt the U.S. is involved in the new plot.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that Iraqi agents were behind the murder of Qasemloo and his two companions and the wounding of the Iranian diplomat Mohammad Jaafar Sahraroodi [name as received], in a bid to destabilize Iran's Kurdistan Province.

On the other hand, the recent arrival of Qasemloo's widow in Vienna from Baghdad can be another proof of Iraq's active role in marring relations between Iran and Austria.

Karrubi on Lebanon 'Plot' by Iraq, France, Israel

LD0312133489 Tehran IRNA in English 1245 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 3, IRNA—Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi today warned against a plot jointly hatched by France, Iraq and Israel to partition Lebanon.

Karrubi described as a 'plot against the innocent people of Lebanon' the illegal presence of the Paris government's representatives in eastern Beirut and their talks with renegade Christian army commander Michel 'Awn.

Speaking at the open session of the Majles, Karrubi expressed regret that some African states has recognized the Zionist regime in defiance of a decision taken by the organization African unity in 1973 to sever ties with the regime occupying Palestine.

In his opinion the move was equal to giving up the fight against the apartheid regime and racial aggressions in Africa.

The Majles speaker warned African nations and governments against the dangers the national and independent governments in Africa felt due to the Zionist regime's increasing influences in that continent.

Karrubi called on the Foreign Ministry and other policy makers in the country to give priority in Iran's ties with Africa to those African states which have not abandoned their struggle against the Pretoria regime, nor have they resumed ties with the Zionist entity.

Pakistan Denies Claims on Saudi Plane Bombing

LD0312183289 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] The Pakistan Government in an official statement said claims made by foreign news agencies about the remarks made by Pakistan's interior minister, to the effect that Iran had been involved in bombing a Saudi plane, are totally baseless. According to a Central News Unit report, the Saudi Arabian daily AL-MADINA, publishing details of an interview with the interior minister of Pakistan some time ago, quoting him, claimed that Iran had been involved in bombing the Saudi plane. This news was quoted by some foreign news agencies, including AFP. However, the Pakistan Government issued a statement on Saturday and, in fully denying this issue, announced: The interior minister of Pakistan has not given any interview in this connection to any news agency, newspaper, domestic or foreign.

The Saudi regime, in the wake of massacring 16 Kuwaiti pilgrims on the vague accusation of planting bombs, which created hatred among world Muslims, is desperately trying to accuse Iran of such deeds in order to prove its earlier claims.

Tabriz Earth Tremor Measures 4.6 on Richter Scale

LD0312120289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Dec 889

[Text] The Central News Unit, quoting Tabriz University seismological center, reported that a relatively strong earthquake shook Tabriz and surrounding areas today. A correspondent of the Central News Unit reports:

[Unidentified Correspondent] A relatively strong earthquake shook Tabriz region this morning. The report of the Tabriz seismological center says that the earthquake, measuring 4.6 on the Richter scale, shook Tabriz and its surrounding areas at 1109 and 27 seconds [local time].

According to the East Azerbaijan Governor General's Office, there were no losses or casualties.

Velayati Discusses POWs With Red Cross Official

LD0312181189 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] The director general for the Middle East of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] met Foreign Minister Velayati, this afternoon. In the meeting, the secretary general [as heard] of the ICRC said: We are pleased that during the visit of Eliasson, the UN secretary general's special envoy, to Tehran, a positive and constructive suggestion was proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran in connection with the release of POWS.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he said: We have close coordination with the UN secretary general and the code [as heard] of the process of examining the POW issue must take place in coordination with the secretary-general.

Velayati then said: We recently presented a proposal on the simultaneous withdrawal of Iraqi troops and the exchange of POWS to the UN secretary general's special envoy and, in international circles, it was interpreted as a positive step taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran toward the implementation of the Resolution and the attainment of peace. And, now, it is the Red Cross which, by pursuing that idea in Iraq, can expedite the return of the POWS to their families.

The foreign minister said in continuation: We continue to be prepared for the exchange of all the two sides' disabled and wounded POWS at the earliest opportunity.

Sri Lanka

Complete Indian Pullout Promised by Year's End

BK0112121089 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] India has assured the Sri Lankan high commissioner, Professor Sandy Kapage, that the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] will pull out of Sri Lanka by the end of December. This was stated by the foreign minister, Ranjan Wijeratne, at the Cabinet briefing. Whatever the outcome of the Indian elections are, it is the will of the Indian people; whatever the party in power, our relationship and good will with India will continue. This was stated by minister of foreign affairs and state minister for defense, Ranjan Wijeratne, in reply to a question asked by newsmen at the weekly news conference in Colombo yesterday.

Communique on Violence, Arrests, Killings

BK0112115289 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0916 GMT 1 Dec 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 1 Dec (LANKAPUVATH)—Three hardcore subversives were killed, over 100 suspects arrested and significant quantities of arms, ammunition, and explosives seized by the security forces during the last 24 hours. A government communique issued today states that in the Western Province at Colombo, unidentified gunmen entered a shop at Angulana and robbed cash. At Maharagama, a cooperative shot was robbed of cash.

The communique further states that two unknown persons entered Jayanthi Hotel at Wijerama Mawatha, shot at W.M. Perera, the owner of the hotel, who escaped unhurt. Gunmen had left removing cash. Mr Perera later on had recovered 28, 9-mm ammunition and a part of a SMG [expansion not known] weapon. At Gampaha, unknown armed persons robbed cash from a rural bank and a cooperative shop at Minuwangoda.

Subversives attacked the AGA's [Assistant Government Agent's] office, Divulapitiya and subsequently set fire to (juki) machines, electrical items, furniture, and sports equipment valued at 903,100 rupees. In the Sabaragamuwa Province at Kegalle in the Taliyadde area, six subversives were arrested.

Fifteen armed subversives set fire to three SLTB [Sri Lanka Transport Board] buses, parked at Debathgama. The same gang had also shot and killed a Buddhist priest and a civilian at Pallebage. In Kegalle and Ratnapura, six subversives gave themselves up to the security forces.

In the Southern Province district of Matara, security forces shot dead three hardcore subversives at Pahala, Witiyawala. Six persons gave themselves up to the security forces. At Walasgala, security forces conducting an operation recovered 12-bore shotguns, locally-made hand grenades, iron boxes and welding transformer from a subversive hideout. In the Uva Province at Badulla, security forces conducting search operations took in for questioning 189 suspected subversives. Among them were two army deserters. Four subversives gave themselves up to the security forces.

In the Central Province at Kandy, during a cordon and search operation in the Ankumbura area 680 suspected subversives were taken in for questioning. Twenty suspects have been detained after interrogation.

A group of subversives set fire to the DDC [Dairy Development Corporation] office at Galgediyawa. During a search operation, security forces recoverd from an abandoned house several rounds of ammunition, cartridges, lead and several parts of rifles. At Kivula in Matale, security forces arrested one subversive suspect and recovered gold weighing 1.50 kgs, a motor cycle and subversive literature. At Nuwara Eliya, security forces arrested 70 suspected subversives.

In the North Central Province at Anuradhapura, security forces shot and killed the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] leader of Karagaswewa. At Kurunegala, also in the North Central Province, three members of a family were hacked to death, at Kalukgolla.

In the Eastern Province at Batticaloa, armed groups robbed three Datsun pick-up vehicles belonging to the road development authority garage, valued at 1.7 million rupees.

'Hardcore Subversives' Surrender in Matara

BK0212111589 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Seventy hardcore subversives, who were hiding in the southern jungles, have heeded to government's call to lay down their arms and surrendered this week to the coordinating officer of the Matara District, Colonel (T.D. Pere). LANKAPUVATH's southern province correspondent quoted security sources states that 11 of the surrendees were leaders of the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Permana] DJV [Deshapremi Janatha Viyaparaya—the political arm of the JVP] hit squads and have been

responsible for a number of killings [as heard]. They told the authorities that they were a disillusioned lot who had been led to committing crimes only to fatten the stomachs and (?line) the money bags of JVP leaders like Rahana Wijeweera and Upatissa Gamanayake. Arrangements are now being made to rehabilitate them.

Ambush Leaves 14 Soldiers, 1 Militant Dead

BK0412094589 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0859 GMT 4 Dec 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 4 Dec [LANKAPUVATH]—Fourteen Sri Lankan servicemen were killed and one wounded yesterday, when the illegal Tamil National Army [TNA] ambushed two vehicles carrying servicemen returning from leave, at Vavuniya in the Northern Province. Security sources told LANKAPUVATH that the TNA had fired mortars and rocket propelled grenades.

One vehicle had escaped the militants' fire, while the other was caught in the ambush. One militant was killed and one wounded when the servicemen counterattacked. Two vehicles proceeding from Vavuniya Camp to Etambaskanda Detachment carrying service personnel after leave, were fired upon by Tamil militants about 400 yards from the Vavuniya junction towards Horowpatana. Fourteen service personnel were killed and one injured. Two persons escaped unhurt. The other vehicle had preceeded to Etakasgada with no injuries to service personnel. One militant was killed and three injured.

The following items have been removed by the militants: One Chinese CMG [central machinegun], two T-56 rifles, four 303 rifles, eight T-56 magazines with 740 rounds, four 303 magazines with 80 rounds, and four M-14 grenades.

Meanwhile, security sources said four Indian soldiers were killed in Trincomalee, when an IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] patrol was ambushed by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam].

160 Subversives Surrender; Police Arrest 28

BK0412095589 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0911 GMT 4 Dec 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 4 Dec [LANKAPUVATH]—Within the last 72 hours, 160 subversives surrendered to the security forces, states a government communique. The largest number of surrenders came from the Anuradhapura District, where 72 subversives surrendered. Kurunegala had the second largest with 29 subversives surrendering.

Twenty-eight suspected subversives were also arrested by the security forces. In search operations, security forces recovered large hauls of arms and ammunition from subversive hideouts and also sets of army and police uniforms. Fourteen service personnel were killed in Vavuniya and four IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] soldiers killed in an ambush at Kinniya.